

## Most Wanted Fugitive Captured In Lee

Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart reports that on Sept. 21, at 10:25 p.m., Madison County Deputies responded to a report of a possible burglary in progress at a residence in Lee. The homeowner's father called to report that his son was out of town and lights were on in the son's residence.

When deputies arrived, they immediately secured the residence and eventually made contact with a person inside. The person who identified himself as Montrell Spain told deputies that he was a friend of the homeowner and had been staying there while the owner was out of town. Deputies attempted to contact the homeowner to

verify the story but were unable to do so. Deputies made every attempt to verify the subject's identity utilizing various databases without success.

Deputies tried to clarify the subject's personal information and the subject changed his last name to Spin; again, no identity match could be made. Based on the deputies' training and experience and considerations of the totality of circumstances, the deputies



Matthew Edward Brown

had the subject accompany them to the jail for fingerprint identification to confirm his exact identity. The subject consented and accompanied the deputies. While traveling to the jail, the subject admitted he was lying about his identity and then provided his real identity.

The subject identified himself as Matthew Edward Brown, 41, of Miami. Brown was further checked through

*Please see Fugitive, Page 3A*

## Sex Offender Registers New Address



Benjamin Scott Wertz II  
By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Benjamin Scott Wertz II has registered as a sexual offender with a new address.

Wertz is a 6'1," 220 pound white male with black hair and hazel eyes. His qualifying offense is a Lowndes County, Ga. case for child molestation. He was adjudicated delinquent

Wertz's address is listed at 210 SE Centerwood Lane in Lee.

## Pre-Trial Hearings Set In Voter Neglect, Voter Fraud Case



Judy Crumtie



Ora Rivers



Laverne Haynes



Jada Williams



Tina Johnson

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Pre-trial hearings for former Supervisor of Elections Jada Woods Williams, as well as six people charged with voter fraud in the election of Abra "Tina" Johnson to Madison County School Board, District 1, will be held Friday, Oct. 12, in Madison.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement began investigating a complaint about po-

tential voter fraud after the Department of State's Division of Elections contacted FDLE. In the complaint, it pointed out that the election had a "extraordinarily disproportionate amount of absentee votes."

According to the FDLE, "the investigation revealed that Johnson and her husband, Ernest Sinclair Johnson, Jr., approached voters and obtained their agreement to vote, after which the voters were

asked to sign an "Absentee Ballot Request Form." Without the voters' knowledge or consent, an alternate address was handwritten on the form, causing the ballots to be mailed to a third party rather than directly to the registered voters. In 2010, Florida law required ballots to be sent to a voter's registered address unless the voter was absent from the county, hospitalized, or temporarily unable to occupy their resi-

dence. The Johnsons retrieved the ballots from the third party locations, brought the ballots to the voter, waited for the person to vote, and then returned the ballots to the Supervisor of Elections. In some instances, the voters were only presented with the absentee ballot signature envelope to sign and never received the actual ballot to cast their vote.

*Please see Hearings, Page 3A*

## Givens Murder Trial Set For October 22

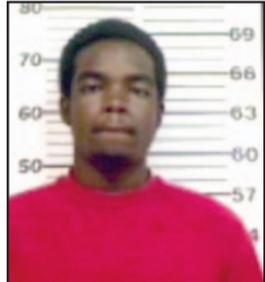
By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Gary Givens, charged in the murder of 75-year-old James Edward Campbell appeared in court Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 25. During the hearing, he waived his right to a 12-person jury.

Givens was arrested in April on charges of murdering Campbell, who was a retired school principal from New Port Richey.

Givens was also charged with burglary, grand

*Please see Givens, Page 3A*



Gary Givens

## Sheriff's Office Seizes Over \$16,000; Arrest Driver

Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart reports that on Sept. 19 at 10:05 a.m., investigators with the Madison County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force conducted a traffic stop on a 2005 silver two-door Mercedes for speeding, following too close, failure to use turn signal and illegal window tint. The vehicle was traveling eastbound



Christopher Stallworth

on Interstate 10 in Madison County. The vehicle was being operated by Christopher Joseph Stallworth of Pensacola.

While investigators were taking necessary enforcement action concerning the traffic violations, they noted several signs of deception and suspicious behavior of

*Please see Arrest, Page 3A*

## Enter The Madison County High School Homecoming Parade

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Make plans now to enter the Madison County High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, Oct. 5.

Participants, who are not school-related, will be required to pay \$20 (cash only) entry fee. All floats will be subject to approval.

Those wishing to enter must provide their name, organization, phone number(s), type of float/vehicle/description and any special needs or requests.

Participants will be required to report to College Drive for line-up at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at 10 a.m.

Participants are asked not to throw candy or toys from their floats or other vehicles. All vehicles are subject to approval.

Forms may be picked up and turned in at the Madison County High School office before Tuesday, Oct. 2.

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## Second Public Hearing On Rich Property Land Amendment At Next County Commission Meeting

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Rich Property & Investment Group has requested a change in land use designation of some 670 acres in the Suwannee River Water Management District from Conservation to Ag-1.

The change would allow a housing density of one home per 40 acres, with some farming in the area. In ex-

change, Rich Property is releasing a tract of land similar in size to SR-WMD, with will be designated as conservation.

Madison County resident Anthony Oliver, who lives within 1000 feet of the 670 acres in question, located along the northern part of the Suwannee River, expressed concerns at the County Commission meeting where the first

public hearing was held.

"That's lot of land and a lot of wildlife to displace," he said. "Homes can go somewhere else."

He also expressed concern about the proposed farming in the area, asking about pesticide drift and whether or not there would be enough water to meet

*Please see Amendment, Page 3A*

**VOTER REGISTRATION ENDS OCTOBER 9**

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Voter registration for the November 6 election ends on October 9.

Anyone who would like to vote in the November election, which includes local races as well as the Presidential race, must register by October 9 or they will be unable to vote.

If you would like to register, you can do so online or at the Supervisor of Elections office.

If you would like to register online you can visit their website [www.votemadison.com](http://www.votemadison.com) and click on the link "Register to Vote." You will then complete the form and print and sign it. You can then mail it to them or bring it by the office. You can register at the office as well.

To register you need the last four digits of your social security number or your driver's license. The Supervisor of Elections office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## Police Department To Host Downtown Halloween

The City of Madison Police Department will be hosting the annual Downtown Halloween on Wednesday October 31st starting at 6 p.m. If your business or organization would like to register to give away candy, please call 850-973-5077.

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| Local Weather   |       |  |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|--|
| <b>Fri 9/28</b> | 91/69 |  | Sunny along with a few clouds. High 91F. Winds light and variable.       |
| <b>Sat 9/29</b> | 90/70 |  | Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.                                 |
| <b>Sun 9/30</b> | 81/69 |  | Cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 60s.                  |
| <b>Mon 10/1</b> | 80/69 |  | Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 60s. |

# Viewpoints & Opinions

The Florida 4-H family lost a valuable member last week in a tragic accident. Taylor County 4-H member Angel Ketring was a kind, beautiful young girl with a shining personality. She left an amazing impression on those fortunate enough to be blessed to meet her. Angel was described by her Madison 4-H friends as "always keeping everyone in a good mood and making everybody laugh." The Madison County 4-H Council honored her memory with a eulogy and moment of silence at last week's 4-H-Aganza. These youth showed amazing strength and leadership by including her in their celebration event. In the words of many of the Council members, they wanted to remember their friend and do as Angel would by taking a difficult situation and using it as a teaching moment for their younger 4-H members.

It is important that adults take the time to teach the youth in their lives the importance of mourning and addressing the emotions that occur when lives are lost. Although none of us wish for our youth to experience loss at such a young age, it is one of the misfortunes of life. Some ways we can encourage the healing process include:

1. Listen. Allow youth to discuss their feelings and encourage them to do so by discussing your own feelings about the loss. Lead by example. If they are

unable to speak about it, have them write or draw about it.

2. Help youth remember: Encourage acknowledgment of the loss, but help youth celebrate the life of that person (or pet). This will gently remove the focus from the loss while allowing time to heal and process. Remember everyone is different and some may need more time than others to go through the healing process.

3. Know when to get help. Pay attention to the actions and behaviors; signs of unhealthy behaviors can be a sign of depression or other serious forms of grief. Facilitate the intervention of professional help if these things occur.

The University of Florida IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS), offers a wonderful publication series on dealing with loss entitled Learning to Live Through Loss by Carolyn S. Wilken. This series has a section specifically for youth experiencing loss which can be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/f>

## Madison County Extension Service

Becky Bennett  
Guest Columnist

### H4: Head, Heart, Hands, & Health

Madison County Extension Services would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ketring family. Angel's loving light will shine on in the lives of those she touched and the sincere impact she made on her friends and community.

Becky V. Bennett

*The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity—Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.*



## Jacob's Ladder

Jacob Bemby  
Columnist

# It's All Good

Moss hangs over the eave on the roof. I'm raking leaves and put them in piles. When each pile gets big enough, I set fire to each of them, along with sticks that trees have gotten rid of and cast to the ground. There is a pleasant smell of fall and fires surrounding me. There is a crisp snap of cool (not cold) in the autumn air.

In a few hours, I will be inside, watching the Dodgers and the Yankees play the World Series on WECA, Channel 27, in Tallahassee. I will cheer hard for the Dodgers, yet watch in awe as Reggie Jackson sends a homer barreling over the fence off Bob Welch, who had struck him out looking only a couple of innings before.

Homework that needs to be done beckons me inside a couple of hours before the game. Homework, followed

by Mama's delicious home cooking. It may have been fried chicken, or it may have been hamburger or spaghetti. It may have even been bacon and eggs for supper instead of breakfast. I loved breakfast at night.

I thank God for pleasant memories of yesteryear. At the time, I thought the world was against me, with my teenaged angst and other problems associated with growing up but now I look back on it all with fond memories.

The next few years would be filled with high school, then college, then work, then bills (oh, so many of them). I found out my youth was blessed beyond compare and I thank God that one day I will be able to look back on my middle-aged years and remember that it was all good.

## Madison County...

### Jail Report



|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>9/20</b><br>Greg Edward Decker - Out of County Warrant (2 Counts), Resisting with Violence (3 Counts), Resisting without Violence (3 Counts) False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer (3 Counts)<br>Lamaorris Demond Collins - Out of County (Failure to Appear)<br>Brian Keith Anderson - Violation of Parole   | 20 grams)  | <b>9/22</b><br>Kayla A Meador - DUI<br>Matthew Edward Brown - Out of County Warrant<br>Jeffery Jackson - Violation of Parole<br>Danterius Jermaine Howard - Failure to Appear<br>Joshua Dewayne Gamble - Fleeing or Attempting to Elude, Repeatedly Driving with a Suspended License  | role (Possession of a Controlled Substance)<br>John Edward Matthews - Weapon Offense, Possession of Drugs without Prescription, Driving with a Suspended License, Possession of a Controlled Substance without Prescription<br>Stacey Donnell Williams - Out of County Warrant<br>Austin Travon Douglas - Violation of Parole (Trespassing After Warning) |
| <b>9/21</b><br>Gary Evan Jinks - Trespassing After Warning, Disorderly Intoxication<br>Isiah Jermiah Robinson - Violation of Parole (County)<br>Benny Owen Taylor - Possession of Marijuana (Less than 20 grams), Driving with a Suspended License<br>Daniell Sharice Kinsey-Out of County<br>Marvin Charles Peacock - Violation of Parole<br>Quinton Jamar Thompkins - Possession of Marijuana (Less than 20 grams)<br>Zachary Dillion McDonald - Possession of Marijuana (Less than | <b>9/21</b><br>Earl Martin Gadson-No Valid Drivers License<br>Rommie Valentino Hodge - Violation of Parole (County)<br><b>9/23</b><br>Tania Reshay Richardson - Violation of Parole (County)<br>Adam Micheal Sparkman - Failure to Appear for Arraignment<br>Michael Terrance Pride - Possession of Marijuana (less than 20 grams), Resisting without Violence, Failure to Appear, Writ of Bodily Attachment (3 Counts)<br>Clayton Robert Coker - Violation of Pa- | <b>9/25</b><br>David Quinton McKinney - Knowingly Driving with a Suspended License, Community Continued Violation of Parole (State)<br>Antonio Deonte Choice - Weapon, Drug<br>Benjamin Barbra Segura - No Valid Driver's License, No Vehicle Registration<br>Xavier Devonte Davis - Trespassing After Warning<br>Marshall Windell Straws - Trespassing After Warning<br>Walter Edward Odom Jr.-Violation of Parole (Circuit) |   |

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CARRIER

Enterprise-Recorder

# From Page One

## Arrest

cont from Page 1A

the driver. A canine search of the exterior of the vehicle was conducted with a positive alert. Incident to the positive canine alert, a probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted. The search discovered a bundle of currency in the center console and two additional bundles of currency wrapped in plastic bags containing cotton balls sprayed with perfume in the trunk area of the Mercedes. The glove box contained a cocked, loaded and ready to shoot 25 caliber handgun.

The currency was commonly packaged in a manner indicative of a drug courier's fashion for transporting currency. A count of the currency revealed the total amount to be \$16,211.00. Stallworth gave several stories of discrepancy regarding to whom the currency belonged to and the amount.

Stallworth, 38, of Pensacola was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The currency was seized pending further investigation.

## Hearings

cont from Page 1A

"The Johnsons also secured the assistance of several other individuals to unlawfully obtain absentee ballots directly from the Supervisor of Elections. Despite written notice of penalties of perjury, these individuals signed and submitted an 'Affidavit to Obtain Absentee Ballot,' claiming to have been authorized by voter to obtain their absentee ballot. These individuals, however, were unknown to the voters."

Tina Johnson was charged with 10 counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote and her husband, Sinclair Earnest Johnson, Jr., was charged with 11 counts of fraud in connection with casting votes, one count of corruptly influencing voting and one count of perjury by false written declaration.

Tina Johnson had been scheduled for trial to begin Oct. 1, but the trial has been continued until February 2013.

Jada Woods Williams was charged with 17 counts of neglect of duty and corrupt practices for allowing the distribution of the absentee ballots.

Others who will enter pre-trial motions will be: Judy Ann Crumitie, charged with four counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote, and one count of providing a false report to law enforcement authorities.

Laverne V. Haynes, charged with two counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote, two counts of perjury by false written declaration, and one count of providing a false report to law enforcement authorities.

Ora Bell Rivers, charged with seven counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote, three counts of perjury by false written declaration, and one count of providing a false report to law enforcement authorities.

Raven Simona Williams, charged with two counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote, two counts of perjury by false written declaration, and one count of providing a false report to law enforcement authorities.

Shalonda Michaelle Brinson, charged with nine counts of fraud in connection with casting a vote, and one count of provided a false report to law enforcement authorities.

The charges against Jada Woods Williams are misdemeanors. The charges of voter fraud against the others are felonies.

## Fugitive

cont from Page 1A

FBI databases, which confirmed his identity and proved that he was listed as a fugitive on the United States Marshals' Office most wanted for homicide in Miami.

Matthew Edward Brown of Miami Florida was arrested and booked into the Madison County Jail on murder and placed on hold for the US Marshall's Office to pick up.

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| Looper<br>R                            | 4:30<br>7:15<br>10:00 | 1:45<br>4:30<br>7:15<br>10:00 |
| Dredd<br>R                             | 5:00<br>7:00<br>9:30  | 2:00<br>4:30<br>7:00<br>9:30  |
| End of Watch<br>R                      | 4:30<br>7:15<br>9:45  | 2:00<br>4:30<br>7:15<br>9:45  |
| House at the End of the Street<br>PG13 | 4:45<br>7:30<br>9:45  | 2:15<br>4:45<br>7:30<br>9:45  |
| Trouble With the Curve<br>PG-13        | 4:45<br>7:30<br>10:00 | 2:15<br>4:45<br>7:30<br>10:00 |
| Finding Nemo 3D<br>G                   | 4:15<br>9:15          | 4:15<br>9:15                  |
| Resident Evil: Retribution<br>R        | 7:00                  | 7:00                          |

## Givens

cont from Page 1A

theft and credit card fraud.

Campbell had trusted Givens and his friend, Jeremiah Gillyard, and had allowed them to visit at his house.

Gillyard was charged with fraudulent use of a credit card and possession of stolen property.

Givens' trial will begin with a six-person jury on Monday, Oct. 22, in Madison.

## Amendment

cont from Page 1A

both agricultural irrigation needs and those of people already living there. This year was wet, he pointed out, but last year, the area was in a drought. What about next year?

Donald Rich, of Rich Property & Investments, spoke next, saying that he transaction was actually an exchange of properties, not an outright purchase, and SR-WMD was actually excited to get the other piece of property in the exchange. "It's not like 670 acres are going away (from a conservation standpoint)," he said, and the entire area would not be devoted to farming.

"If the SWRMD felt there was a risk, it would not have approved the exchange," he added.

A second public hearing is required before the matter can go forward, and will take place at the next regular County Commission meeting, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m., in the courthouse annex.

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## Conservative Corner By Claudia Anderson Vice President Republican Club of Madison County

### What Will America Be Like Tomorrow?

In the documentary, "2016, Obama's America," facts are given regarding the development and foundation of the person we have as President of the United States. This foundation is made from the bricks of Socialism and Communism, cemented together with contempt for our country and total disregard for individual rights and freedoms as gifted to us by the Creator of the universe and outlined in The Bill of Rights and Constitution as written by our founding fathers.

Built on the Obama foundation is a structure of "misstatements" such as:

- No tax increases. (According to the Supreme Court, OBAMACARE IS THE BIGGEST EVER!)
- Low unemployment. (In China? Thanks to GM?)
- Slashing the deficit in half. (OR ONE-TERM PRESIDENCY - He forgot that promise!)
- No individual mandate. (Where are the options?)
- No abortions in ObamaCare. (Not IN Obamacare - only Sponsored by.)
- Millions of new jobs. (Count PRIVATE SECTOR jobs only, PLEASE!)
- Five days of public comment before signing a bill into law. (What constitutes PUBLIC?)
- Open government. (Better light needed to see this!)

For a documented list of some falsehoods, see "69 Obama Lies, Deceptions and Attacks on Our Constitution and Way of Life" from Grassfire Nation.

Perhaps we should hope that the message to Russia, declaring more flexibility with (the destruction of) our missile defense after the election, will not carry much weight either. (Ha! Not quite that senile, yet!)

**I say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

KrisAnne Hall, on her "Bill of Rights" DVD, writes "America has lost its way. There is widespread ignorance of American history and the core principles that ought to inform our politics and policy. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are being whittled away with each passing day, through intent as well as ignorance - and with them the protections for our God-gifted liberties... If we do not know how we got here and we do not understand what we have, then not only do we not know HOW to defend our liberties - we do not even know WHAT we are defending."

**TAKE BACK AMERICA**

Silence is NOT an Option

This DVD by Liberty Counsel gives pastors and church members information that will counteract the intimidation that seems to have silenced, so drastically, otherwise responsible Christian Patriots.

**Review Patriot Pastor History:**

<http://brr.wallbuilders.com/the-original-brr/what-is-the-black-robbed-regiment.aspx>

**Review Most Biblically -**

**Hostile U.S. President:**

<http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=106938>

In a sermon by the late Adrian Rodgers, a story was told about French prisoners during World War II who were used by Germany to manufacture bombs to be dropped on the French people. After the failure of numerous bombs, a dismantling revealed a note in every bomb inspected which stated: "We are doing the best we can with what we got, where we are, every chance we get."

The foundation of our country is being bombarded from every direction. SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION! I am doing the best I can with what I've got, where I am, every chance I get. How about you?

**What will America be like tomorrow?**

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### November 6, 2012, General Election

#### Madison County Supervisor of Elections

##### Voter Registration Drive

The Supervisor of Elections Office is striving to ensure all residents of Madison County have the opportunity to cast their vote in the 2012 Election. A Student Voter Registration Drive is just one opportunity the office focuses on, encouraging students to become involved in the electoral process. We are committed to providing opportunities for you to exercise your right to vote so you can make your voice heard. Vote your way: Absentee, Early, or Election Day.

**BOOK CLOSING**  
October 9, 2012

**ELECTION DAY**  
November 6, 2012



North Florida  
Community College  
Student  
Erica Mobley



##### Early Voting for 2012 General Election

Early voting for the November 6, 2012 General Election begins October 27, 2012 and ends November 3, 2012. Hours for voting will be Monday through Friday from 10:00am until 6:00pm and Saturdays and Sunday 8:00am to 2:00pm. \*Dates and hours are subject to change

##### EARLY VOTING SITES

Supervisor of Elections Office  
239 SW Pinckney Street  
Madison, FL 32340

Lee City Hall  
286 N.E. CR 225  
Lee, FL 32059

Senior Citizens Building  
166 S.W. Onslow St.  
Greenville, FL 32331

Pinetta Vol. Fire Station  
509 N.E. Persimmon Dr.  
Pinetta, FL 32350

Thomas "Tommy" Hardee  
Madison County Supervisor of Elections  
239 SW Pinckney Street  
Madison, FL 32340  
Phone: 850.973.6507  
Cell: 850.545.7228

# Around Madison County

## Forestry And The Future Of Madison County

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

"How many people here in this room own property that includes woodland tracts?" asked Joe Boyles before introducing the Rotary Club's guest speaker. About half a dozen Rotarians raised their hands, including those who owned property in adjacent counties.

Boyles then introduced Madison County Forester Justin Kania to talk about what the Forestry service offers those whose property includes woodland tracts, as well as what the future holds for Madison County forestry.

Kania, a native of Naperville, IL, said that a combination of long, cold winters, a short growing season and a less-than-certain state budget for the forestry department in some northern states eventually sent him elsewhere. With a Bachelor's degree in forestry management and a minor in soil science, the 2010 University of Wisconsin graduate has worked for the U.S. Forestry Service in Colorado and Montana, as well as an ecological restoration company and a county forest preserve.

Kania's work has fo-

cus mainly on ecological restoration and forestry management, with several years experience in the field of natural resources. For the last six months, he has put that to work for the Madison County Forestry Service.

For county residents who either own wild woodland tracts or are actively involved in producing commercial tree stands for Florida's timber industries, the Madison County Forestry Service offers a variety of services, from cost sharing programs for battling the Southern Pine beetle and invasive plant species like cogon grass, to forest health and management, to stewardship programs, to general management plans for tree farms, to information on different types of harvesting methods, to heavy equipment rental. Most programs require a tree stand of ten or more contiguous acres, but check with the Madison County Forestry Service for details.

With many timber mills and other buyers around the state and elsewhere now requiring Tree Farm Certification (a program where a qualified third party inspects the wooded



Photo submitted

**Justin Kania, with the Forestry Service in Madison, talked to the local Rotary Club about how the service can help local woodland tract owners get the most benefit from their property and what they can expect from the future of the timber industry.**

acres and documents that it meets certain standards), the Madison County Forestry Service can help local foresters meet certification requirements, which include written and implemented management plans that take water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation and biodiversity into account, as well as the production of wood products.

Florida currently

has 930 Certified Tree Farms covering nearly 935,000 acres of land.

Other services offered include vendor lists of forest/property management services and information on the emerging bio-fuel industry that can convert logging slash, sawdust and other biomass waste into renewable energy. Currently, only seven percent of the state's energy comes from renewable resources, but the bio-fuel trend is out there, slowly growing, and demand is expected to rise. By 2020, based on projected demands and projects, it is estimated that eight percent of the world's total wood products will be bio-fuel products, and pulp prices will rise accordingly.

For more information on how your county forestry service can help you manage and get the most out of your woodland property, contact Kania at (850) 973-5115, email him at [Justin.Kania@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Justin.Kania@freshfromflorida.com), or visit the website [www.yourforestmanaged.com](http://www.yourforestmanaged.com)

## Obituary

### Dorothy J. Demps



Dorothy J. Demps, 75, of Brooklyn, NY passed at home on Monday, September 24, 2012. A native of Greenville, she had lived in Detroit, Mich., where she worked in real estate and graduated from Lewis Business College in Business Administration. In 1964, she moved to Brooklyn and worked as an administrative assistant until retiring in 1985. Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Nebo Church Cemetery.

Survivors include: her son, Duane Wright; sisters, Theresia Hall and Diane Johnson; brother, Jerome Johnson; sisters-in-law, Catherine and Mary Demps and Sandra Johnson; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

## TLC – HUD Housing Counseling Agency Expands Services To Local Residents

The Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium has expanded their services into Wakulla, Gadsden, Jefferson, and Madison counties. Thanks to funding received from NeighborWorks America, TLC expanded its services and reach in January 2012 by establishing satellite offices in each of these four counties and is providing free housing services to low-income families. The grant is part of \$3.65 million in expansion grant funding awarded to TLC and other local members of the NeighborWorks network by NeighborWorks America. Services include pre-purchase counseling, credit counseling, budgeting, and homebuyer education.

TLC is excited to be able to expand their service area and help more low income families realize their dreams of homeownership. TLC equips families to make proactive decisions on such issues like priority spending that reduces the possibility of future mortgage delinquency and default. TLC's low foreclosure rate of 1.56% for clients who have received both counseling and down payment assistance through the program TLC administers for the City of Tallahassee is well below Florida's average of 14%. TLC also provides assistance to families facing foreclosure, under the Hardest Hit Programs for consumers facing unemployment/underemploy-

ment.

TLC's satellite offices are located in the Library in Crawfordville; the County Courthouse Annex in Madison; in the Capital City Bank building in Monticello; and in the Havana Community Technology and Learning Center, thanks to generous in-kind donations of office space. Tonya McClure, TLC's Housing Administrator, has been selected to pilot this program. Tonya has over 18 years experience in counseling and lending. To refer your clients to TLC in these counties, please call Tonya at 222-6609, extension 103 or 510-6522.

About TLC: TLC is a not-for-profit organization, created in 1993 by the City of Tallahassee and local lenders. Its mission is to make the dream of homeownership a reality by improving people's ability to obtain and retain safe, decent and affordable housing through creating housing options; providing homebuyer education; and providing access to affordable financing. TLC is a NeighborWorks America affiliate, a HUD certified Housing Counseling Agency, and a licensed Mortgage Broker, NMLS #372580. TLC does business in accordance with the Federal and Florida fair housing laws. For more information, please visit TLC's webpage at [www.tallahasseelenders.org](http://www.tallahasseelenders.org) or call 222-6609.

## Tommy Beggs Is Guest Speaker At Next 55 Plus Club Meeting

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Mark your calendar for next Wednesday, Oct. 10, the October meeting of the 55 Plus Club, to hear what guest speaker Tommy Beggs has to tell you about the last 80 years of Madison's history. Beggs, who has spent the last 50 years working with TJ Beggs Funeral Home, a family owned and operated business as old as Sears and Coca-Cola (all founded the same year – 1886), is known for a keen

sense of humor as well as an extensive knowledge of local history. He's certain to have some interesting stories to share.

The 55 Plus Club is an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries of Madison. They meet at noon on the second Wednesday of every month, at the UMCM Center, corner of NW Dill Avenue and Colin Kelly Highway, about five miles north of town. Each month features a

different guest presentation on a topic of interest to seniors

The Club is open to interested seniors 55 years young on up, for an hour of lunch, visiting with friends and learning something new. The best part is that everything is free; there are no fees and no registrations of any kind. You don't even have to make a reservation. Just show up, grab a chair, and have a great time.

For additional information about the 55 Plus Club or any other outreach of the UMCM, or if you need directions to the UMCM Center building, contact Deborah Brown at (850) 929-4938.

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## Dr. John Lewis Draws A Large Crowd At The 55 Plus Club

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Dr. John Lewis, local veterinarian since 1979 at the Madison Veterinary Clinic, drew a full house for the 55 Plus Club's first meeting after the summer break, declaring that a great many of them looked like they were well under the 55-year age limit. "I guess you younger ones will have to cover your ears," he quipped, as he began an overview of the history of veterinary medicine in Madison County for the last 100 years.

The work of early Florida veterinarians was almost exclusively livestock and other farm animals. Its focus, the health and safety of both animals and people, resulted in better regulation of dairy farms, slaughterhouses and meat packing plants.

Today, many of the livestock diseases of that era no longer exist. Vaccination programs were discontinued in the 60s and 70s, and diseases like tick fever and screwworm were eradicated by the 1940s and 50s. Brucellosis and bovine TB were eradicated in Florida by the year 2000. Hog cholera, which made it particularly difficult to raise swine, was eradicated in U.S. domesticated swine by 1972, although it remains within the feral hog population in some areas.

As for small animal practices, a century ago they rarely existed outside major metropolitan areas such as New York, Boston or D.C.

"Everybody probably remembers the old farm dog," said Lewis, speaking of the most frequently kept "companion" animals and the realities of that era. "He hung around the farm and you liked him, but if he got sick and died, or you had to put him down, it was too bad. You'd just have to get another one."

As for the cats of that era, they were mostly out of luck. Most were probably barn cats, but even for those kept as pets, the idea of spending money on them for medical treatment was considered absurd.

Today, there is an entirely different view of the human/animal bond. Yesterday's farm dog is today's family member. There has also been a rise in pet ownership, coinciding with more people living in smaller spaces. Dr. Lewis's practice, about 70 percent small animals when he arrived in 1979, is now about 90 percent small animals. Most are dogs, but about 10-12 percent of his patients are cats.

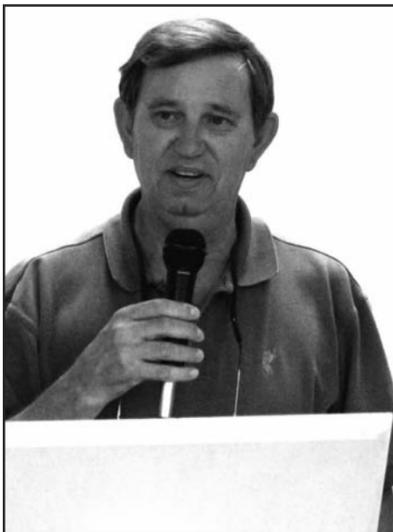
Also today, the opposite of a century ago, it is sometimes difficult to find a large animal veterinarian because of the long hours and amount of travel involved.

As far as local history, Madison's first formally trained veterinarian was Dr. Edgerly from Albany, Ga., who arrived about 1910. Employed by the state of Florida, Edgerly's focus was the county's livestock, preventing disease outbreaks that could result in great economic losses to area farmers (and in the case of bovine TB and brucellosis, could be transmitted to humans).

The first vet in private practice here was Dr. J.A. Davis from Thomasville, Ga. Arriving in 1944, he chose Madison over Tallahassee, because the latter already had two veterinarians. Back then, three was a crowd.

But two was still a company; when Davis first moved here, Ms. Rosa Hay, who ran the Stroud Hotel dining room, made certain that Davis was always seated at the same table as a certain local lady, Miss Edith Ragans. The two were married in 1945.

In 1946, Edgerly resigned his state job and Davis was hired in his place, assuming responsibility for the region's livestock and traveling to



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, September 12, 2012

**Dr. John Lewis speaks to the 55 Plus Club about local veterinary history.**

dairies all over Northern and Central Florida – while still keeping up his private practice on evenings and weekends.

Davis's first office was a block west of Gordon Tractor Company. He later moved into a small building behind the First Baptist Church on Meeting Street. In 1960, his office was across South Duval Street from Studstill's. Like Edgerly, he focused mainly on large farm animals, but he soon began treating a few dogs.

The story goes that his first foray into this area was spaying a dog for a local woman; when the dog subsequently got an infection, Davis stayed on the woman's couch to administer the needed antibiotics around the clock. At that time, there were very few antibiotics available other than penicillin, so the dog's recovery was remarkable. Local farmers were soon prevailing upon Davis to take a look at Rover, too, as long as he was already at the farm to treat the livestock.

In 1983, Lewis bought Davis's practice and Davis retired in 1985. By 1993, the Madison Veterinary Clinic was built in its present location. In 2006, Dr. Darren Baxley joined the practice.

Some other changes Lewis recalled during his time in Madison included many people getting out of the cattle business in the 80s when grain prices dropped, and getting into forestry and timber instead. He now sees a lot of pine tree stands around the county that used to be pasture.

Also, the recession of 2008 meant that some people could no longer afford to keep horses as companion animals. In Madison, from 2008 until 2009, Lewis noticed that cattle work started going up again while horse work went down.

Another change he spoke of is the way people now view their feline companions, with some people willing to spend money on feral cats they do not even own, to provide them with food, medical care and T-N-R (trap-neuter-release) programs – quite a change from a time when spending money on one's own pet cat was considered "absurd."

Perhaps even more changes are in store for the future, with the difficulties many farms now face in the current economy, but Lewis believes that most of the people coming to Madison for the rural/farm lifestyle, while not necessarily "farmers" in the traditional sense, still want to feel a connection to the land and its creatures again, and that folks in general have a deeper understanding of the bond between animals and the people who love them.

As one 55 Plus Club member put it, "We would like to thank you, Dr. Lewis, for taking such good care of our four-footed children."

## CONCEALED WEAPONS CARRY CLASS SET FOR OCTOBER 6

The Madison County Sheriff's Office will be facilitating its next Concealed Carry Weapons class on Saturday, Oct. 6. The National Rifle Association (N.R.A.) First Steps Pistol course is the foundation for the Sheriff's Office eight-hour concealed carry class. In addition, information is provided to ensure that each student is aware of what they can expect to take place before, during and after violent confrontations and how they, as individuals, can best prepare for these dynamics. We emphasize to students how important it is to value life and to employ less lethal options when the circumstances permit, but we want our students to be confidently prepared. Our goal is to fully prepare law-abiding citizens for the complex dynamics of violent confrontations. This class far exceeds the requirements to apply for the State of Florida Concealed Weapons Carry Permit for residents and non-residents. The Florida Concealed Weapons permit is honored in 36 states. Our classes are taught by N.R.A. multi-discipline law enforcement firearms instructors who are active S.W.A.T. team members and U.S. military veterans. The cost for this course is \$85.00. The cost for two people in a group is \$75.00 each. The cost goes down for each additional person.



The Madison County Sheriff's Office will also be offering an intermediate pistol course for citizens from 2 PM until approximately 8 PM on Saturday, Oct. 20. This six-hour course is designed to build a winning foundation for basic concealed carry weapon courses. It will also benefit anyone who desires to increase their knowledge, confidence and ability to prevail in a violent confrontation. Some concealed carry weapon classes meet the state requirements to become barely legal. This is fine if surviving is not high on your priority list. Other classes have good intentions and help establish a sound foundation. Our concealed carry weapon course helps you establish a winning foundation. This intermediate course will provide additional skills we consider a necessity to win mentally, physically and spiritually. Some of the skills we will cover in this course include:

- Fine tuning weapon concealed carry options.
- Less lethal options.
- Accessing a firearm concealed on your person and firing.
- Clearing handgun malfunctions.
- Cover Vs. concealment.
- Firing from cover.
- Enhancing marksmanship fundamentals.
- Enhancing speed and accuracy with a firearm.
- Reloading under stress.
- Night firing with and without a flashlight.
- Handgun disassembly, cleaning and assembly.

As a law abiding citizen, making the choice to arm ourselves is a right and a privilege. We owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to make the necessary preparations. Make the choice to be a victor, not a victim. We want to share with you the knowledge on how to prepare for, and win, a violent confrontation. The cost for this class is \$45.00 per person and students are required to provide the ammunition they would like to use during the practical exercises. A portion of these course fees will support summer camps sponsored by the sheriff's office for disadvantaged youth and other free courses for the community. If you would like to register for either of these classes, or if you have any questions, please contact Captain Joost at 850 519-0947.

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## Sports

# Ten-and Under Tennis Workshop Attracts Locals



(Photo by Ina Thompson)

Coach Chuck Hormann explains "kid" tennis equipment to the group training to teach the course. They got to experience the Nerf-type larger balls the children will use.

By Ginger Jarvis  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Large, round Nerf-type balls sailed around the gym at North Florida Community College on December 8. Twenty-six people from around the county joined in the fun, learning to teach the rudiments of tennis to children.

Following the directions from Coach Chuck Hormann, the group practiced balance, bouncing the ball with a racquet, approaching the net (much shorter than regulation nets), and partner placement. Hormann, a United States Tennis Association coach from St. Augustine, made the sessions lively and fun as well as informative.

Among the "students" were Beth Moore, principal at Pinetta Elementary, and teachers Jo Ragans and Lewis Christmas; Janna Barrs, Headmistress at Madison Academy, and teachers Josh Wood, Bubba Carroll, Rhonda Gore, and Sonja Bass; Brian Annett of Lee Elementary; Dustin and Danyel Rucker from Central School; Charlie Jackson, the Bob Weilands, Leland Moore, Rebecca Calhoun, Heidi Waller, Gale Dickert, Beverly Moore, Doug Brown, Rose Knox, Billy Washington, Debra English, and Leigh Ann Browning. They are now eligible to work with Madison County children ages five to ten in playing tennis.

Ina Thompson, who had previously traveled to an out-of-town workshop with Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Kinsey, said that the training will help get the Ten-

and-Under program started in Madison county. During one break, Moore said that she plans to introduce the program at Pinetta during physical education classes. "We will have some after-school sessions, too," she said.

Pinetta and Madison Academy have already received \$1,000 grants from the USTA to purchase special balls, racquets, and nets for the program. Organizer George English of Tallahassee said that other schools and groups can get grants simply by filling out the paperwork.

English, who said he began to play tennis under the direction of Chris Evert's father Jimmy, explained that the program uses graduated balls to move a child from the beginners and age five to full court at age 11. He has worked with Lisa Flournoy and Thompson to schedule training and events in Madison County. "I am interested in Madison County because my mother's family came from here," he said.

As the session began to close, Thompson commented, "We really appreciate Clyde Alexander and NFCC letting us use this gym. It is the perfect place for this training."

Behind her, Hormann was shouting, "Find your bellybutton. Now, everything to the right is forehand, Everything to the left is backhand." Hilarity ensued.

Flournoy presented a video of the training to the Madison city Commissioners at the regular meeting on September 11.



(Photo by Ina Thompson)

First you work on balance – that's the word from Coach Hormann as the training session begins.

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(Photo by Ina Thompson)

Spearheading Madison County's Ten-and-Under Tennis are (left to right) George English of the United States Tennis Association, Madison City Commissioner Ina Thompson, workshop coordinator Lisa Flournoy and national trainer Chuck Hormann. They were in charge of the training workshop on September 8.



(Photo by Ina Thompson)

Playing the game for Ten-and-Under tennis means lower nets and a smaller court. These trainees learn the difference in the NFCC gym.

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- Maintain the air to save money on fuel. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that under-inflated tires can increase fuel consumption by up to 3 percent. One study estimates that 50 to 80 percent of the tires rolling on U.S. roads are under inflated. Properly inflated tires on all American cars could save up to 2 billion gallons of gas a year.

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More ways to save money on fuel are available at [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).

- Reduce your insurance costs by shopping around. Prices vary from company to company, so it pays to do your homework. Get at least three price quotes. You can call companies directly or access information on the Internet.

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# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012 NOTICE OF ELECTION

I, Kenneth W. Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in each county in Florida, on November 6, 2012, for the ratification or rejection of proposed revisions to the constitution of the State of Florida.

## NO. 1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE I, SECTION 28 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit laws or rules from compelling any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage; permit a person or an employer to purchase lawful health care services directly from a health care provider; permit a health care provider to accept direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; exempt persons, employers, and health care providers from penalties and taxes for paying directly or accepting direct payment for lawful health care services; and prohibit laws or rules from abolishing the private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service. Specifies that the amendment does not affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide; affect which health care services are permitted by law; prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation; affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010; affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; or affect any general law passed by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature, passed after the effective date of the amendment, provided such law states with specificity the public necessity justifying the exceptions from the provisions of the amendment. The amendment expressly provides that it may not be construed to prohibit negotiated provisions in insurance contracts, network agreements, or other provider agreements contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

**Full Text:**

ARTICLE I  
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS  
SECTION 28. Health care services.—  
(a) To preserve the freedom of all residents of the state to provide for their own health care:

(1) A law or rule may not compel, directly or indirectly, any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage.

(2) A person or an employer may pay directly for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for paying directly for lawful health care services. A health care provider may accept direct payment for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services.

(b) The private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service may not be abolished by law or rule.

(c) This section does not:

(1) Affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide.

(2) Affect which health care services are permitted by law.

(3) Prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation.

(4) Affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010.

(5) Affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services, except that this section may not be construed to prohibit any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

(6) Affect any general law passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature after the effective date of this section, if the law states with specificity the public necessity that justifies an exception from this section.

(d) As used in this section, the term:

(1) "Compel" includes the imposition of penalties or taxes.

(2) "Direct payment" or "pay directly" means payment for lawful health care services without a public or private third party, not including an employer, paying for any portion of the service.

(3) "Health care system" means any public or private entity whose function or purpose is the management of, processing of, enrollment of individuals for, or payment, in full or in part, for health care services, health care data, or health care information for its participants.

(4) "Lawful health care services" means any health-related service or treatment, to the extent that the service or treatment is permitted or not prohibited by law or regulation at the time the service or treatment is rendered, which may be provided by persons or businesses otherwise permitted to offer such services.

(5) "Penalties or taxes" means any civil or criminal penalty or fine, tax, salary or wage withholding or surcharge, or named fee with a similar effect established by law or rule by an agency established, created, or controlled by the government which is used to punish or discourage the exercise of rights protected under this section. For purposes of this section only, the term "rule by an agency" may not be construed to mean any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

## NO. 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** VETERANS DISABLED DUE TO COMBAT INJURY; HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII and the creation of Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution to expand the availability of the property discount on the homesteads of veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury to include those who were not Florida residents when they entered the military and schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2013.

**Full Text:**

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE AND TAXATION  
SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the man-

ner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

## ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. Veterans disabled due to combat injury; homestead property tax discount.—The amendment to subsection (e) of Section 6 of Article VII relating to the homestead property tax discount for veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury shall take effect January 1, 2013.

## NO. 3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 1 and 19 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE LIMITATION.—

**Ballot Summary:** This proposed amendment to the State Constitution replaces the existing state revenue limitation based on Florida personal income growth with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes. Under the amendment, state revenues, as defined in the amendment, collected in excess of the revenue limitation must be deposited into the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches its maximum balance, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to the taxpayers. The Legislature may increase the state revenue limitation through a bill approved by a super majority vote of each house of the Legislature. The Legislature may also submit a proposed increase in the state revenue limitation to the voters. The Legislature must implement this proposed amendment by general law. The amendment will take effect upon approval by the electors and will first apply to the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

**Full Text:**

## ARTICLE VII FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.—

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.

(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.

(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.

(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.

(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill.

For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.

SECTION 19. State revenue limitation.—

(a) STATE REVENUE LIMITATION.—Except as provided in this section, state revenues collected in any fiscal year are limited as follows:

(1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenues collected during the 2013-2014 fiscal year multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus four one-hundredths.

(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2014-2015 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus three one-hundredths.

(3) For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2015-2016 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus two one-hundredths.

(4) For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2016-2017 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus one one-hundredth.

(5) For the 2018-2019 fiscal year and thereafter, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for the previous fiscal year multiplied by the adjustment for growth.

(6) The adjustment for growth for a fiscal year shall be determined by March 1 preceding the fiscal year using the latest information available. Once the adjustment for growth is determined for a fiscal year, it may not be changed based on revisions to the information used to make the determination.

(b) REVENUES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION.—State revenues collected in any fiscal year in excess of the revenue limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to taxpayers as provided by general law.

(c) AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—

(1) The state revenue limitation for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Unless otherwise provided by the bill increasing the revenue limitation, the increased revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years.

(2) The state revenue limitation for any one fiscal year may be increased by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Increases to the revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph must be disregarded when determining the revenue limitation in subsequent fiscal years.

(3) A bill increasing the revenue limitation may not contain any other subject and must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading in either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.

(d) AUTHORITY OF THE ELECTORS TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—The legislature may propose an increase in the state revenue limitation pursuant to a concurrent resolution enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. The proposed increase shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the resolution is filed with the custodian of state records. However, the legislature may submit the proposed increase at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after it is filed with the custodian of state records pursuant to a law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The resolution must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution, the increased revenue limitation shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years. The proposed increase shall take effect if it is approved by a vote of at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the matter.

(e) REVENUE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT BY THE LEGISLATURE.—The legislature shall provide by general law for adjustments to the state revenue limitation to reflect:

(1) The fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government occurring after May 6, 2011; or

(2) The fiscal impact of a new federal mandate.

(f) GENERAL LAW IMPLEMENTATION.—The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(1) "Adjustment for growth" means an amount equal to the average for the previous five years of the product of the inflation factor and the population factor.

(2) "Inflation factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in the calendar year annual average of the Consumer Price Index. The term "Consumer Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. city average (not seasonally adjusted, current base for all items), as published by the United States Department of Labor. In the event the index ceases to exist, the legislature shall determine the successor index by general law.

(3) "Population factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in population of the state as of April 1 compared to April 1 of the prior year. For purposes of calculating the annual rate of change in population, the state's official population estimates shall be used.

(4) "State revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, the term "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state for bonds issued before July 1, 2012; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund optional expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes;

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receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; receipts of public universities and colleges; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services authorized by any amendment or revision to this constitution after May 6, 2011.

### ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. State revenue limitation.—The amendment to Section 1 and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII, revising the state revenue limitation, and this section take effect upon approval by the electors and apply beginning in the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

### NO. 4 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 4, 6 ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 27, 32, 33 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS; PROPERTY VALUE DECLINE; REDUCTION FOR NONHOMESTEAD ASSESSMENT INCREASES; DELAY OF SCHEDULED REPEAL.—

#### Ballot Summary:

(1) This would amend Florida Constitution Article VII, Section 4 (Taxation; assessments) and Section 6 (Homestead exemptions). It also would amend Article XII, Section 27, and add Sections 32 and 33, relating to the Schedule for the amendments.

(2) In certain circumstances, the law requires the assessed value of homestead and specified nonhomestead property to increase when the just value of the property decreases. Therefore, this amendment provides that the Legislature may, by general law, provide that the assessment of homestead and specified nonhomestead property may not increase if the just value of that property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1, subject to any adjustment in the assessed value due to changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property which are assessed as provided for by general law. This amendment takes effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.

(3) This amendment reduces from 10 percent to 5 percent the limitation on annual changes in assessments of nonhomestead real property. This amendment takes effect upon approval of the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.

(4) This amendment also authorizes general law to provide, subject to conditions specified in such law, an additional homestead exemption to every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in the Florida Constitution within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the Florida homestead exemption applied. The additional homestead exemption shall apply to all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional homestead exemption may not exceed an amount equal to the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for the shorter of 5 years or the year of sale of the property. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Article VII, Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one such exemption shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if approved by the voters at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if approved by the voters at the 2012 general election. The additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received. The amendment shall take effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.

(5) This amendment also delays until 2023, the repeal, currently scheduled to take effect in 2019, of constitutional amendments adopted in 2008 which limit annual assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property. This amendment delays until 2022 the submission of an amendment proposing the abrogation of such repeal to the voters.

#### Full Text:

### ARTICLE VII FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) As provided by general law and subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified therein, land used for conservation purposes shall be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(c) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(d) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall change be changed annually on January 1 1st of each year; but those changes in assessments

a. A change in an assessment may shall not exceed the lower of the following:

1.a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.

2.b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or a successor index reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

b. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1.

(2) An No assessment may not shall exceed just value.

(3) After a any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change only as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this subsection amendment are severable. If a provision any of the provisions of this subsection is amendment shall be held unconstitutional by a any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the such court does shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this subsection amendment.

(8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2009, or January 1 of any subsequent year and who has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this Article as of January 1 of either of the 2 two years immediately preceding the establishment of a the new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. If this revision is approved in January of 2008, a person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 2007. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:

1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.

(e) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(f) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However, but those changes in assessments may shall not exceed 5 ten percent (40%) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (4), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An No assessment may not shall exceed just value.

(3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(h) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) and (g) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However, but those changes in assessments may shall not exceed 5 ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An No assessment may not shall exceed just value.

(3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the

property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes:

(1) Any change or improvement made for the purpose of improving the property's resistance to wind damage.

(2) The installation of a renewable energy source device.

(j)(1) The assessment of the following working waterfront properties shall be based upon the current use of the property:

a. Land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes.

b. Land that is accessible to the public and used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable.

c. Marinas and drystacks that are open to the public.

d. Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities.

(2) The assessment benefit provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature by general law.

### SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of \$25,000 twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than \$50,000 fifty thousand dollars and up to \$75,000 seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of 99 ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding \$50,000 fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age 65 sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed \$20,000 twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) As provided by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) applied is entitled to an additional homestead exemption for all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption may not exceed the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for a period of 5 years or until the year the property is sold, whichever occurs first. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one exemption provided under this subsection shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if this amendment is approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if this amendment is approved at the 2012 general election, but the additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received.

### ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.—The amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homestead property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by

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# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012 NOTICE OF ELECTION

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law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (f) and (g) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008. Subsections (g) (4) and (h) (4) of Section 4 of Article VII, initially adopted as subsections (f) and (g), are repealed effective January 1, 2023 2019; however, the legislature shall by joint resolution propose an amendment abrogating the repeal of subsections (g) (4) and (h) (4), which shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general election of 2022 2018 and, if approved, shall take effect January 1, 2023 2019.

**SECTION 32. Property assessments.—**This section and the amendment of Section 4 of Article VII addressing homestead and specified nonhomestead property having a declining just value and reducing the limit on the maximum annual increase in the assessed value of nonhomestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.

**SECTION 33. Additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who recently have not owned homestead property.—**This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII providing for an additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who have not owned homestead property during the 3 calendar years immediately preceding purchase of the current homestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, and the additional homestead exemption shall be available for properties purchased on or after January 1, 2011, or if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013, and the additional homestead exemption shall be available for properties purchased on or after January 1, 2012.

## NO. 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 2, 11, AND 12 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** STATE COURTS.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing a revision of Article V of the State Constitution relating to the judiciary.

The State Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts. The constitution further provides that a rule of court may be repealed by a general law enacted by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. This proposed constitutional revision eliminates the requirement that a general law repealing a court rule pass by a two-thirds vote of each house, thereby providing that the Legislature may repeal a rule of court by a general law approved by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature that expresses the policy behind the repeal. The court could readopt the rule in conformity with the public policy expressed by the Legislature, but if the Legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, this proposed revision prohibits the court from further readopting the repealed rule without the Legislature's prior approval. Under current law, rules of the judicial nominating commissions and the Judicial Qualifications Commission may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. Under this proposed revision, a vote to repeal those rules is changed to repeal by general law enacted by a majority vote of the legislators present.

Under current law, the Governor appoints a justice of the Supreme Court from a list of nominees provided by a judicial nominating commission, and appointments by the Governor are not subject to confirmation. This revision requires Senate confirmation of a justice of the Supreme Court before the appointee can take office. If the Senate votes not to confirm the appointment, the judicial nominating commission must reconvene and may not renominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the Senate. For the purpose of confirmation, the Senate may meet at any time. If the Senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice will be deemed confirmed and will take office.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission is an independent commission created by the State Constitution to investigate and prosecute before the Florida Supreme Court alleged misconduct by a justice or judge. Currently under the constitution, commission proceedings are confidential until formal charges are filed by the investigative panel of the commission. Once formal charges are filed, the formal charges and all further proceedings of the commission are public. Currently, the constitution authorizes the House of Representatives to impeach a justice or judge. Further, the Speaker of the House of Representatives may request, and the Judicial Qualifications Commission must make available, all information in the commission's possession for use in deciding whether to impeach a justice or judge. This proposed revision requires the commission to make all of its files available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives but provides that such files would remain confidential during any investigation by the House of Representatives and until such information is used in the pursuit of an impeachment of a justice or judge. This revision also removes the power of the Governor to request files of the Judicial Qualifications Commission to conform to a prior constitutional change.

This revision also makes technical and clarifying additions and deletions relating to the selection of chief judges of a circuit and relating to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and makes other nonsubstantive conforming and technical changes in the judicial article of the constitution.

### Full Text:

#### ARTICLE V JUDICIARY

**SECTION 2. Administration; practice and procedure.—**

(a) The supreme court shall adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts including the time for seeking appellate review, the administrative supervision of all courts, the transfer to the court having jurisdiction of any proceeding when the jurisdiction of another court has been improvidently invoked, and a requirement that no cause shall be dismissed because an improper remedy has been sought. The supreme court shall adopt rules to allow it the court and the district courts of appeal to submit questions relating to military law to the federal Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for an advisory opinion. Rules of court may be repealed by general law that expresses the policy behind the repeal enacted by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. The court may readopt the repealed rule only in conformi-

ty with the public policy expressed by the legislature. If the legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, the rule may not be readopted thereafter without prior approval of the legislature.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the court; shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system; and shall have the power to assign justices or judges, including consenting retired justices or judges, to temporary duty in any court for which the judge is qualified and to delegate to a chief judge of a judicial circuit the power to assign judges for duty in that circuit.

(c) A chief judge for each district court of appeal shall be chosen by a majority of the judges thereof or, if there is no majority, by the chief justice. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the court.

(d) A chief judge in each circuit shall be chosen from among the circuit judges as provided by supreme court rule. The chief judge of a circuit shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the circuit courts and county courts in the his circuit.

#### SECTION 11. Vacancies.—

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in a judicial office to which election for retention applies, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission.

(b) The governor shall fill each vacancy on a circuit court or on a county court, wherein the judges are elected by a majority vote of the electors, by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next primary and general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. An election shall be held to fill that judicial office for the term of the office beginning at the end of the appointed term.

(c) The nominations shall be made within thirty days from the occurrence of a vacancy unless the period is extended by the governor for a time not to exceed thirty days. The governor shall make the appointment within sixty days after the nominations have been certified to the governor.

(d) Each appointment of a justice of the supreme court is subject to confirmation by the senate. The senate may sit for the purpose of confirmation regardless of whether the house of representatives is in session or not. If the senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice shall be deemed confirmed. If the senate votes to not confirm the appointment, the supreme court judicial nominating commission shall reconvene as though a new vacancy had occurred but may not renominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the senate. The appointment of a justice is effective upon confirmation by the senate.

(e)(4) There shall be a separate judicial nominating commission as provided by general law for the supreme court, one for each district court of appeal, and one for each judicial circuit for all trial courts within the circuit. Uniform rules of procedure shall be established by the judicial nominating commissions at each level of the court system. Such rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. Except for deliberations of the judicial nominating commissions, the proceedings of the commissions and their records shall be open to the public.

**SECTION 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.—**

(a) **JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION.—**A judicial qualifications commission is created.

(1) There shall be a judicial qualifications commission vested with jurisdiction to investigate and recommend to the Supreme Court of Florida the removal from office of any justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise, occurring on or after November 1, 1966, (without regard to the effective date of this section) demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office, and to investigate and recommend the discipline of a justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966 (without regard to the effective date of this section), warrants such discipline. For purposes of this section, discipline is defined as any or all of the following: reprimand, fine, suspension with or without pay, or lawyer discipline. The commission shall have jurisdiction over justices and judges regarding allegations that misconduct occurred before or during service as a justice or judge if a complaint is made no later than one year following service as a justice or judge. The commission shall have jurisdiction regarding allegations of incapacity during service as a justice or judge. The commission shall be composed of:

a. Two judges of district courts of appeal selected by the judges of those courts, two circuit judges selected by the judges of the circuit courts and two judges of county courts selected by the judges of those courts;

b. Four electors who reside in the state, who are members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be chosen by the governing body of the bar of Florida; and

c. Five electors who reside in the state, who have never held judicial office or been members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) The members of the judicial qualifications commission shall serve staggered terms, not to exceed six years, as prescribed by general law. No member of the commission except a judge shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office. The commission shall elect one of its members as its chairperson.

(3) Members of the judicial qualifications commission not subject to impeachment shall be subject to removal from the commission pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules regulating its proceedings, the filling of vacancies by the appointing authorities, the disqualification of members, the rotation of members between the panels, and the temporary replacement of disqualified or incapacitated members. The commission's rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. The commission shall have power to issue subpoenas. Until formal charges against a justice or judge are filed by the investigative panel with the clerk of the supreme court of Florida all proceedings by or before the commission shall be confidential; provided, however, upon a finding of probable cause and the filing by the investigative panel with said clerk of such formal charges against a justice or judge such charges and all further proceedings before the commission shall be public.

(5) The commission shall have access to all information from all executive, legislative and judicial agencies, including grand juries, subject to the rules of the commission. At any time, on request of the speaker of the house of representatives or the governor, the commission shall make available to the house of representatives all information in the possession of the commission, which information shall remain confi-

dential during any investigation and until such information is used in the pursuit for use in consideration of impeachment or suspension, respectively.

(b) **PANELS.—**The commission shall be divided into an investigative panel and a hearing panel as established by rule of the commission. The investigative panel is vested with the jurisdiction to receive or initiate complaints, conduct investigations, dismiss complaints, and upon a vote of a simple majority of the panel submit formal charges to the hearing panel. The hearing panel is vested with the authority to receive and hear formal charges from the investigative panel and upon a two-thirds vote of the panel recommend to the supreme court the removal of a justice or judge or the involuntary retirement of a justice or judge for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Upon a simple majority vote of the membership of the hearing panel, the panel may recommend to the supreme court that the justice or judge be subject to appropriate discipline.

(c) **SUPREME COURT.—**The supreme court shall receive recommendations from the judicial qualifications commission's hearing panel.

(1) The supreme court may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the commission and it may order that the justice or judge be subjected to appropriate discipline, or be removed from office with termination of compensation for willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties or for other conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary demonstrating a present unfitness to hold office, or be involuntarily retired for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Malafides, scienter or moral turpitude on the part of a justice or judge shall not be required for removal from office of a justice or judge whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office. After the filing of a formal proceeding and upon request of the investigative panel, the supreme court may suspend the justice or judge from office, with or without compensation, pending final determination of the inquiry.

(2) The supreme court may award costs to the prevailing party.

(d) **REMOVAL POWER.—**The power of removal conferred by this section shall be both alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment.

(e) **PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.—**Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, if the person who is the subject of proceedings by the judicial qualifications commission is a justice of the supreme court of Florida all justices of such court automatically shall be disqualified to sit as justices of such court with respect to all proceedings therein concerning such person and the supreme court for such purposes shall be composed of a panel consisting of the seven chief judges of the judicial circuits of the state of Florida most senior in tenure of judicial office as circuit judge. For purposes of determining seniority of such circuit judges in the event there be judges of equal tenure in judicial office as circuit judge the judge or judges from the lower numbered circuit or circuits shall be deemed senior. In the event any such chief circuit judge is under investigation by the judicial qualifications commission or is otherwise disqualified or unable to serve on the panel, the next most senior chief circuit judge or judges shall serve in place of such disqualified or disabled chief circuit judge.

(f) **SCHEDULE TO SECTION 12.—**

(1) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(2) After this section becomes effective and until adopted by rule of the commission consistent with it:

a. The commission shall be divided, as determined by the chairperson, into one investigative panel and one hearing panel to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section.

b. The investigative panel shall be composed of:

1. Four judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Three non-lawyers.

c. The hearing panel shall be composed of:

1. Two judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Two non-lawyers.

d. Membership on the panels may rotate in a manner determined by the rules of the commission provided that no member shall vote as a member of the investigative and hearing panel on the same proceeding.

e. The commission shall hire separate staff for each panel.

f. The members of the commission shall serve for staggered terms of six years.

g. The terms of office of the present members of the judicial qualifications commission shall expire upon the effective date of the amendments to this section approved by the legislature during the regular session of the legislature in 1996 and new members shall be appointed to serve the following staggered terms:

1. Group I. The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one circuit judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 1998.

2. Group II. The terms of five members, composed of one elector as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, two members of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one circuit judge and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2000.

3. Group III. The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2002.

g.h. An appointment to fill a vacancy of the commission shall be for the remainder of the term.

h.i. Selection of members by district courts of appeal judges, circuit judges, and county court judges, shall be by no less than a majority of the members voting at the respective courts' conferences. Selection of members by the board of governors of the bar of Florida shall be by no less than a majority of the board.

i.j. The commission shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution, in addition to any penalty levied by the supreme court.

j.k. The compensation of members and referees shall be the travel expenses or transportation and per diem allowance as provided by general law.

## NO. 6 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE I, SECTION 28 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC FUNDING OF ABORTIONS; CONSTRUCTION OF ABORTION RIGHTS.—

**Ballot Summary:** This proposed amendment provides that public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This prohibition does not apply to an expenditure required by federal law, a case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would place her in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, or a case of rape or incest.

This proposed amendment provides that the State Constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the Unit-

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ed States Constitution. With respect to abortion, this proposed amendment overrules court decisions which conclude that the right of privacy under Article I, Section 23 of the State Constitution is broader in scope than that of the United States Constitution.

### Full Text:

ARTICLE I  
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS  
SECTION 28. Prohibition on public funding of abortions; construction of abortion rights.—

(a) Public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This subsection does not apply to:

(1) An expenditure required by federal law;  
(2) A case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury or physical illness, including a life-endangering, physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, which would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed; or

(3) A pregnancy that results from rape or incest.  
(b) This constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution.

## NO. 8 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE I, SECTION 3 (Legislative)

### Ballot Title: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution providing that no individual or entity may be denied, on the basis of religious identity or belief, governmental benefits, funding or other support, except as required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and deleting the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

### Full Text:

ARTICLE I  
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS  
SECTION 3. Religious freedom.—There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace, or safety. Except to the extent required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, neither the government nor any agent of the government may deny to any individual or entity the benefits of any program, funding, or other support on the basis of religious identity or belief. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

## NO. 9 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32 (Legislative)

### Ballot Title: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF MILITARY VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide by general law ad valorem homestead property tax relief to the surviving spouse of a military veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty or to the surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty. The amendment authorizes the Legislature to totally exempt or partially exempt such surviving spouse's homestead property from ad valorem taxation. The amendment defines a first responder as a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2013.

### Full Text:

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE AND TAXATION  
SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—  
(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entirety, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.  
(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.  
(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.  
(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.  
(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.  
(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion

of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to the:

(1) Surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) Surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term:

a. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

b. "In the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

## ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. Ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty.— This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII permitting the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty shall take effect January 1, 2013.

## NO. 10 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32 (Legislative)

### Ballot Title: TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to:

(1) Provide an exemption from ad valorem taxes levied by counties, municipalities, school districts, and other local governments on tangible personal property if the assessed value of an owner's tangible personal property is greater than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000. This new exemption, if approved by the voters, will take effect on January 1, 2013, and apply to the 2013 tax roll and subsequent tax rolls.  
(2) Authorize a county or municipality for the purpose of its respective levy, and as provided by general law, to provide tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance. This is in addition to other statewide tangible personal property tax exemptions provided by the Constitution and this amendment.

### Full Text:

## ARTICLE VII FINANCE AND TAXATION

### SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.  
(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.  
(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.  
(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(e) (1) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of tangible personal property is subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. Tangible personal property is also exempt from ad valorem taxation if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars.  
(2) A county or municipality may, for the purposes of its respective tax levy, provide additional tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance, subject to this subsection and as provided in general law.  
(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.  
(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

## ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. Tangible personal property; ad valorem tax exemption.— The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII providing that property is exempt from tangible personal property tax if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars shall take effect January 1, 2013, and applies to assessments for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013.

## NO. 11 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:** ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; LOW-INCOME SENIORS WHO MAINTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENCY ON PROPERTY; EQUAL TO ASSESSED VALUE.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law and subject to conditions set forth in the general law, to allow counties and municipalities to grant an additional homestead tax exemption equal to the assessed value

of homestead property if the property has a just value less than \$250,000 to an owner who has maintained permanent residency on the property for not less than 25 years, who has attained age 65, and who has a low household income as defined by general law.

### Full Text:

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE AND TAXATION  
SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner; or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner; shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entirety, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.  
(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.  
(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.  
(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions:

(1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or—

(2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and who has maintained thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these additional exemptions exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion

## NO. 12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE IX, SECTION 7 (Legislative)

### Ballot Title: APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to replace the president of the Florida Student Association with the chair of the council of state university student body presidents as the student member of the Board of Governors of the State University System and to require that the Board of Governors organize such council of state university student body presidents.

### Full Text:

ARTICLE IX  
EDUCATION  
SECTION 7. State University System.—

(a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.  
(b) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.  
(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.  
(d) STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the chair of the council of student body presidents, which council shall be organized by the board of governors and consist of all the student body presidents of the state university system president of the Florida student association, or the equivalent, shall also be members of the board.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.  
(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

(h) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion

# Turn Back Time

## Remembrance of Things Past: Ted C. Ensminger

Submitted by  
Ted Ensminger

I've got to tell you, it's pretty entertaining to take several hours out of my day dedicated to the sole purpose of remembering things past. Madison County occupies a special place in my heart, a permanent condition that has existed for over 40 years. My remembrances of things past, however, have less to do with buildings or businesses, and more to do with people; all different types of people, brought together in one wonderful place. In October 1968, I got a call from a high school buddy and dear friend, Kurt Wisner, inviting me to come visit him and a couple of my other friends who were going to college at place called North Florida Junior College in Madison. I had already made a couple of less-than-stellar stabs at finding the perfect academic atmosphere for me since my graduation the year before and thought, "Why not?" I can count on one

hand the number of events that completely changed my life, but I assure you, that telephone call was one of them.

The city of Madison I encountered in 1968 was very similar to what it is today, except that there were more stores downtown, and they were busy. There was a walk-in movie theater and, of course, that all-important drive-in theater, both essential to me as a young man. There were two places kids often hung-out. One place was called The College Inn, and the other was the Hillcrest Dairy Bar (today that's O'Neal's Restaurant). The two hangouts were across the street from each other, so if you were trying to find a friend, chances were pretty good you'd find them in either one place or the other. Did I mention that both served excellent cheeseburgers and shakes?

I felt right at home in Madison from day one. It was, and still is, the kind of place that just felt right, like slipping



Ted C. Ensminger

ping into your favorite pair of jeans. I believe the reason for that was because of the people I met and got to know. You see, back in the late 1960's and early 1970's, there were probably twice the number of students attending NFJC as there are now. Over 50 percent of those students were not from the surrounding six-county area that currently supports the student enrollment. I met students here from upstate New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Texas, Nebraska, and several students from Iran. Can you believe it? One young lady I knew was Farishtah Fattahi and her dad was a colonel in the Iranian

Air Force under the Shah of Iran. What a cultural melting pot I discovered just by traveling 113 miles due west of Jacksonville. It was a wonderful mix of foreign and domestic, local and regional individuals. It was an extraordinary place to learn, especially about people.

To say that Madison captured my imagination and spirit would be an understatement. I grew up and older, day by day, learning how to listen and how to speak, not just how to hear and talk. I discovered the existence of, and experienced to a degree, another entire world, all while right here in Madison. I learned how to have fun and how to avoid trouble. Somehow, I even passed a class or two in the process. My academic prowess had never been much to brag about, but I was an enthusiastic student.

During my time here in Madison, I lived life to the fullest. Although it actually took me over three years to graduate from a two-year college, during that time I garnered hundreds of new friends, dozens of whom continue to be in my life to this day. I wholeheartedly believe in the energy and love and curiosity that breed in a small

campus environment and I can readily see how the experiences of so long ago shaped me into the businessman and individual I am today. You see, back in those college days I loved to throw parties, or help others enjoy a good time. That desire to support and encourage people having fun led me into a professional career of event development and leisure-time sales activities. I know for a fact that I went to the best college in the world for me personally and it saddens me to see the school today be less than what it was back then. Oh, academically, NFCC is among the best in the nation, but the difference a more diverse student body can make to the students and to the economy of this county is immeasurable. I hope to live long enough to see student housing and a full athletic department return to this college, once again making the city of Madison a true college town.

There is a certain peace that comes when you finally learn and understand you may never know what makes all the different types of personalities tick, but there are still things we all have in common. Whether you're brought

up in a rural community or an urban environment, many of us share the same concerns, hopes and dreams.

Before I moved back to Madison, I had lived the lion's share of my life elsewhere. Yet, when a dear friend of mine from Ft. Pierce bought property here and I started thinking about returning to Madison myself, nothing but the warmest memories of welcome, acceptance and friendship washed over me. I was thrilled to discover upon my return to Madison County that several of my instructors were still here in Madison and many of the friends from days past were here as well. Madison and Madison County have always been very good to me.

It is a distinct pleasure to live and work in the community I really love. It allows me to partially return those long-ago favors with my dedication and service to it now. It's exciting to utilize my experience and knowledge to bring positive change and improvement to a place that means so much to me. It's very much a feeling of coming full circle, from what Madison did for me to what I can now do for Madison. Needless to say, I'm

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## TAKE BACK AMERICA Prayer Rally



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4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Honey Lake Plantation Church**  
1290 NW Honey Lake Road  
Greenville, FL 32331 • 850-948-9911

*You have given us this promise: "... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." - (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

**So, we pray to you. We turn from evil and look to you, our God.  
Please:**

**U**nite Us  
**S**trengthen Us  
**A**ppoint and Anoint  
**O**ur Next President

*In the name of Christ we pray.*

- ★ Come join us on October 7th in prayer for our leaders, country, freedom, military, family, economy and children.
- ★ Special music by Nashville singer Terry Warren, former FSU football player, among special guest speakers and prayer warriors.

Plantation Buffet available at Whispering Pines Restaurant at HONEY LAKE PLANTATION RESORT & SPA immediately following prayer rally for \$15.00. *Reservations Recommended.*



## Way Back When

**October 2, 1942**

Jessie Mathis, 21, was killed last Thursday night about 10:15 o'clock when the ice truck he was riding, and which officers said was going at high speed, failed to take the curve on the highway in the western part of Greenville and struck a tree. Young Mathis, it happened, was killed with a hundred yards of where his father was killed some years ago.

A defense demonstration consisting of an armored caravan and army band from Moody Field will arrive here at 10:45 this Saturday morning and give a 30 minute program on the west side of the courthouse.

The Madison High football team won a decisive 19-0 victory over Jennings High last Friday night at Lanier Field.

Mrs. Gladys Williams and Lucile Williams bought the Madison Feed and Seed store from C.M. Plant.

**September 26, 1952**

Frank Bell, son of Mrs. Mamie Bell of Lee and the late George Bell of Madison, has joined the Air Force and is now stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Messrs Guy Morrow, Tebo Welch, Henry Edmisten, Gene Clark, T.E. Weatherly, Earl Milford and C.F. Childress attended the installation of officers of the American Legion Post in Steinhatchee Saturday.

Lynett Bishop, age 7, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bishop of Greenville was bitten by a ground rattler on the foot as she started through the gate to her home last Tuesday. She was rushed to the doctor's office in Greenville for treatment and is getting along nicely.

**September 28, 1962**

The Bert Thigpen family has been named the Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Coye Donaldson, C.T.2 of the U.S. Navy arrived home Sept. 10 for a month's furlough.

The D.G. McMullens of Gainesville were guests of relatives in Lee Sunday.

**September 29, 1972**

C.S. Blalock's service station as been on the same corner for the past 40 years.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Naughton was the scene of a beautiful reception Sunday afternoon when members of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church entertained at a farewell party for Father Gerald Flater, who is being transferred to Tewkesburg, Mass., after being here for four years.

Madison High School slaughtered Jacksonville Tech 66-0 in football action last Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Searcy of Lee announce the engagement of their daughter, Judith Ann, to Keith Stanley Mosier of Aurora, Ind.

# Church

## Happenings

At Madison

First Baptist Church

Submitted By Nell Dobbs  
Guest Columnist

A quote: "Keep the boat in the water. Keep the water out of the boat."

After feeding 5,000 men plus women and children, Jesus sent His disciples away in a ship while He sent the multitudes away and then He went alone to pray. (There's a song about Jesus walking on the water.) After a while, a storm came up and the disciples saw someone walking on the water and thought it was a spirit until He spoke to them. Peter said, "If it really is you, bid me to walk on the water." And he did, until he saw the storm and cried for help. which Jesus gave him, asking why he doubted. When they reached the other side and everyone had knowledge of Him, many were brought to be healed and made whole!

How blessed we are to have knowledge of Him through His Word, through study, through Sunday School, through preachers.

"Trek Adventures" for grades 6-9, Sunday 6 p.m.

More giving for Maguire State Mission Offering.

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 14, at 5 p.m., "Know What You Believe."

An opportunity to give to the Building Fund.

Staff Appreciation Night and covered dish dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday night, Sept. 30.

Flowers by the Flower Committee.

Opportunities to be a Joy Choir member and visit the four nursing homes weekly on Tuesday.

Thanks from the family of Hettie Selman.

Thanks for the special visitors Sunday and touching benediction Sunday morning by the retired missionary to Japan.

Thanks for great songs sung and felt: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit," "Send a Great Revival," and the choir sing, "Unfettered Praise."

Preacher's message from Eph-

esians 4:26-27 about "Being Angry and Sinning Not" and walking worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called by being a unity, being humble, being gentle. We can be angry at the wrongs in life - we can forgive. We have a sweet, sweet spirit.

Thanks for Riley Beggs coming forward and prayers for him.

Prayers for the many, many ill ones:

For newlyweds - a niece, Elizabeth (Lew's and Cassandra's younger daughter) and Michael on Saturday, Sept. 22, in Marietta, Ga. for the many of us attending

For sad ones - Ron and Sadie Barfield and family in the death of his brother

For the family of Jessie Rodriguez All in South Georgia Medical Center

Mr. Rufus Johnson - special worker at Pinetta Elementary Weta Bratcher, Dollie Meggs' mother-in-law in South Georgia Medical Center

Barbara Greiner Janice Hayes - Memy Howerton Hayes' mother-in-law

Harvey Smith - North Regional in Gainesville

Alan Spurlock of Phenix City, Ala. Travis Hill and three sons and nephews at SGMC

Dub Barfield - surgery Pat Olson - very ill at home

Dennis and Thelma DeHart, Jo Floyd, Mikey Wilson, Lynne Sapp (open heart surgery, Oct. 3), Joe and Suzanne Peavy, Butch Baker, Vickie Sherrard, Lil Jack McLeod

Sandra Shannon - knee surgery on Oct. 2

all others

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

## St. Vincent DePaul Annual Prime Rib Dinner

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church will be hosting their annual prime rib dinner this month. The funds raised from the sale will go to local charities including

Take Stock in Children, Project Graduation, A Woman's Pregnancy Center, Relay for Life and NFCC Scholarship.

Boxes will be on sale for \$25.00 and can be purchased for take out. The meals will be on sale October 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.

For more information please call Jim Catron at (850) 673-8201 or email him at [catronj@aol.com](mailto:catronj@aol.com).



## Women's Retreat 2012 Slated

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church will be going on a women's retreat this month. The trip will be held on October 26-28. They will begin the retreat on Friday at 9 a.m. with an educational and spiritual teaching on women etiquette, serving others, loving others, family life, etc. They will end with a divine word from Rev. Juanita Crutcher followed by lunch. Then on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. they will depart from Rocky Springs to Savannah, Ga. They will be staying at the Embassy Suites. Some optional activities for the trip include downtown rides, walking, swim-

ming, relaxation, spa, shopping, site seeing and more. Dinner on Saturday will be at Paula Deen's-Lady and son's restaurant. There will be a full breakfast bar available Sunday at the hotel. They will have Sunday School in the conference room. They will then depart for home and eat lunch on the road.

The total cost for the trip, which includes hotel, bus, and dinner, is \$150. For more information contact: Catherine Murphy at 850-673-9846,, Linda Robinson at 850-673-9015, and Sonical Mitchell at 850-673-1428. You can also email Catherine at [catherine.murphy@ymail.com](mailto:catherine.murphy@ymail.com) and Sonical at [sonical.mitchell@cca.com](mailto:sonical.mitchell@cca.com).

## Worship Symphony To Be Presented

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Invitation: An Afternoon of Worship Fit for a King will be presented Sunday, Sept. 30, at 5 p.m. at Love and Faith Community Church in Tallahassee.

The program will feature Patrice Floyd, violinist; Mira Hobbs and Kevin Taylor, pianists; and the Java-

cya Arts Symphony.

Admission is free to this program, which is presented by the Symphony 7 School of Arts & Technology.

Love and Faith Community Church is located at 1410 East Indianhead Drive in Tallahassee.

For more information, please call (850) 878-1430.

## Peanut Boil Set For Friday In Madison

On Friday, September 28, Bible Deliverance Church in Madison will be holding a peanut boil for the community, beginning at 6 p.m. Along with fresh boiled peanuts, finger sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

On the first Saturday of each month, the church serves a delicious hot breakfast starting at 9 a.m. On Wednesday nights at 7 p.m., the evening kicks off with dinner and a time of fellowship, followed by a Bible study conducted by Thigpen.

In August, Bible Deliverance Church celebrated its 32nd year of ministry. The church began in August of 1980 by founder and pastor Thomas Thigpen, holding services at an old church building located on Highway 90 west. The church later relocated to

downtown Madison and 32 years later, the church is still going strong.

The church is located at 720 SW Range Avenue in Madison. For more information, please call (850) 973-4622.



# YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

### First United Methodist Church

850-973-6295  
Rev. Robert E. Laidlaw  
Brian Sanderson, Youth Pastor  
Service of Word & Table .....8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service .....11:00 a.m.  
Wed. Jr. High Youth (grades 6-8).....5 - 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Sr. High Youth (grades 9-12) .....6 - 7:30 p.m.

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Youth Church(2nd Sunday) .....11:00 a.m.  
Pastoral Sunday (4th Sunday) .....11:00 a.m.

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Sat .....5:30 p.m. Mass  
Sun .....9:00 a.m. Mass  
CCD Class after Sunday Mass  
Reconciliation:  
Sat 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Prior to Mass  
Also by appointment  
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4:30 p.m. Adoration  
5:00 p.m. Novena  
5:30 p.m. Benediction  
First Saturday:  
9:00 a.m. Holy Hour

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FALL HOME  
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September 2012

Homeowners' Guide

Section B



*"To God Be The Glory"*

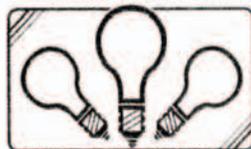
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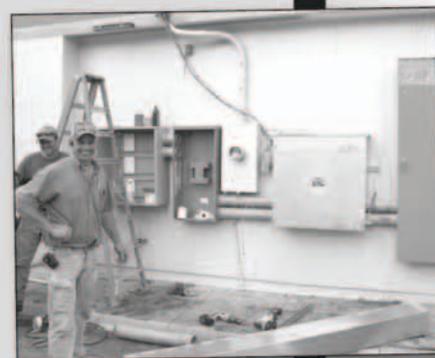
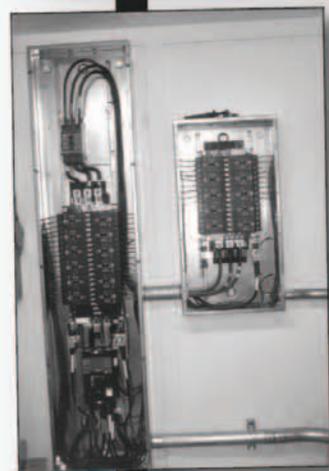
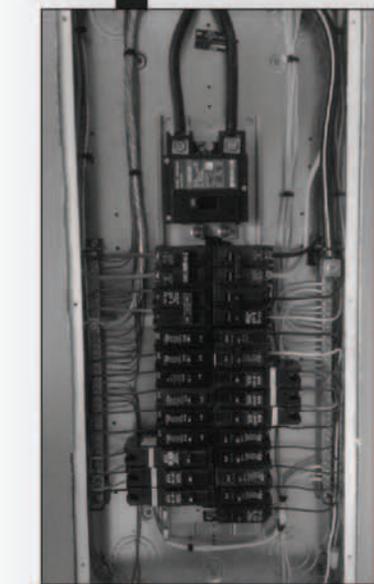
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*Ephesians 3:20*



# J&B Sons Offers Experience, Fairness And Quality Work

By Jacob Bemby  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

Jerry Borgert, owner of JB & Sons Painting, has been in business for himself for 23 years. Prior to that, he worked for a painting contractor in Homestead.

The Borgerts lived in Homestead until moving to Madison County in 2006. They were looking for a slower pace of life and found it in the place they now call home.

"This is definitely a tight-knit community," Jerry said. "It's a great place to raise kids. Everyone kind of looks out for each other."

Borgert offers pressure cleaning, painting and wood repairs as well as restores wood decks and he does faux finishes with a sponge.

"We have two sprayers and can also spray lawn furniture and barns," Jerry said. "We have painted our share of barn roofs and metal roofs."

Right now, JB & Sons are painting the Wardlaw-Smith-Goza Conference Center. They just finished painting the sanctuary and the steeple at the

First Baptist Church in Madison.

Borgert said that he tries to buy locally as much as possible, preferring Sherwin Williams paint that he buys from Studstill, but that he will use whatever the customer wants.

"If I have a customer who says that his grandfather always used Benjamin Moore paint, I will use that if he prefers," he said.

Borgert employs anywhere from 5-10 employees, as well as his wife and eldest son but he usually has to cut back during the winter. He would like to

remind everyone that just because winter is on the way does not mean that one cannot paint. He pointed out that the climate in north Florida is not like the climate up north, where harsh winters are not conducive to paint jobs.

Borgert brings experience and fantastic workmanship to the job. He is licensed and insured and carries worker's compensation.

"If you treat people fair, they will want to be your customer," he said. "I would somehow like to thank them."



## Planting With A Purpose: Tree Tips For Homeowners

Knowing when, what, where, and how to plant is essential to a tree's life span. And if you want trees in your yard to be assets that continually appreciate in value, keep these important tips from the International Society of Arboriculture in mind before, during, and after planting a tree.

**Time of year** - The best time to plant trees is during the dormant season, in the fall after leafdrop or early spring before bud-break. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location before spring rains and summer heat stimulate new top growth.

**Tree selection** - Think right tree, right place. Believe it or not, many people don't take tree growth into consideration when choosing what species to plant. Think about how the tree will look 50 years from now as well as this planting season. Consider its mature height, width, and overall shape before making your final choice.

**Site selection** - Choose a location with the right soil, space, and light

conditions for your tree. Will your tree need shade or sun? Wet soil or dry? What insects, pollutants, drought conditions, or other environmental factors might affect its long-term viability? Avoid planting large trees under or near power lines. Also remember that tree roots spread well beyond their branches, so pick a planting spot with plenty of room for underground development, too.

Let the planting begin! Proper planting techniques are critical to the life of a tree. All too often, people make their first and biggest planting mistake when they dig the hole that will be their tree's home. "Most of a tree's roots grow horizontally, so the hole needs to be wide," says ISA's Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the organization.

A good rule of thumb is to dig the hole about three times the width of the root ball. The depth of the hole is just as crucial: dig the hole no deeper than the height of the root ball. "It's better to put a \$100 tree in a \$200 hole than to put a \$200 tree in a \$100 hole," Skiera says, because a properly prepared planting hole will help the tree's root system establish more quickly. "Healthy roots make healthy trees."

### Other ISA Tips:

- Loosen the soil around the planting hole to give tree roots ample room to grow.
- Straighten the tree in the hole before refilling with soil.
- Fill the hole gently but firmly.
- Mulch the base of the tree (no more than two or three inches thick).
- After planting, keep the soil moist but not soaked.
- Check soil moisture once a week (more often in hot weather).
- Prune sparingly and only when necessary.
- If in doubt about your tree's health, contact an ISA Certified Arborist in your area for help.



# Making Your Child's Room Into A Fun And Organized Haven

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Most parents will agree that very few children enjoy cleaning their rooms. Some kids will hide their toys under the bed, stuff them in the closet or tuck them under a blanket in attempts to avoid cleaning. However, with a few simple and entertaining tricks, any parent can turn organizing their child's room into a fun family project.

One way to inspire a child to maintain a clean room is to remodel it. We, as adults, often grow comfortable in our surroundings. Children are no different. Ever notice how a kid doesn't make as big of a mess at a friend's home? This is because they are at a new and uncomfortable location.

Whether it is a new paint job or simply rearranging the furniture, redoing your child's room can inspire an all-new level of cleanliness.

Other ideas for getting your child involved in keeping their room clean include:

Hand paint shoeboxes. For small dressers or desks it can be hard to keep them organized. Make homemade dividers out of shoe or tissue boxes.

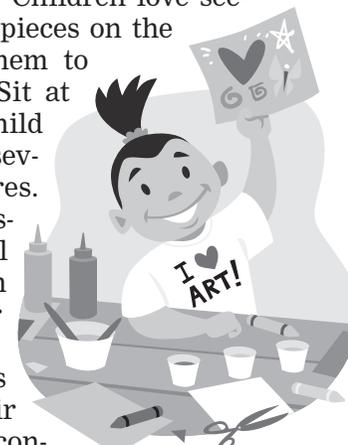
Buy washable paint and lay out newspapers across the floor and have fun. Allow them to paint whatever they want on the outsides of the boxes, then help your child label each box with "socks," "pencils," "underwear," markers," etc.

Have a fashion show. We are all guilty of saving clothes that don't fit anymore. Children are no different. Have your child model all of their clothes for you, then decide which clothes to keep and which to toss or give to Goodwill. This will prevent drawer clutter and help keep clothes in order.

Play stuffed animal basketball. As children grow so does the number of stuffed toys they own. An easy way to get these toys off of the floor is to hang a hammock in the corner of their room. Involve your child by making it a game, whoever can toss the most stuffed animals into the net the fastest wins a prize. If your child wins they could get a cookie or you have to play hide and seek with them. If you win they have to help you cook supper, which they will probably enjoy and maybe even want to do more often.

Become an artist. Children love seeing their own masterpieces on the refrigerator. Bring them to their room as well. Sit at the table with your child and have them color several different pictures. Buy inexpensive, plastic and colorful frames and put them all around their room.

Some more ideas would be putting their toys into a plastic container under their bed. They can be easily pulled out and opened during playtime. Have a full length mirror, hooks on the wall for jackets and backpacks and also have a laundry basket somewhere in their room. Make sure that everything in their room is at their eyelevel and can be reached easily, except fragile items or toys with small parts.



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# Buck Stove Place Offers Solutions For Your Heating Needs

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Offering unmatched American quality, the Buck Stove Place, located at 1459 Grandview Street in Lake City is the place to go for your stove needs.

Operating Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. (closed for lunch, noon-1 p.m.) and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Buck Stove Place offers freestanding stoves, fireplaces, gas logs, Green Mountain grills, electric stoves and fireplaces.

Buck Stoves are made by craftsmen in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The stoves are known for the longest burn time and highest heat production of any stove on the market. The vent free stoves operate at 99.9 percent efficiency. There are over 35 models to choose from and they can easily be implemented into any home.

Owners Bob Harrison and Wayne Wilkes want to show you how to save money on energy bills with a new Buck Stove or fireplace installed in your home from one of the many brand name product lines. They can also do inspections and repairs of existing units and recommend a solution meant to suit your budget.

The Buck Stove Place offers chimney cleaning, gas log repair and installation, chimney systems, fireplace and stove installation, wood stove, inserts, antique stove restoration, brick replacement and replacement parts for most brands of stoves.

To call and find out more about the Buck Stove Place, dial (386) 752-7885.



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# Halloween Decor For Your Home

It's hard to believe the Halloween holiday is only a month away. Have you started thinking about how you will decorate your home for Halloween this year? There are many ways to go about dressing up your home for Halloween, but a good place to begin is with the new assortment of Sturbridge Yankee Workshop Harvest and Halloween décor.

Consider a striking piece of wall art to set the tone of your home this season, with for example, our new Spooked Print. Originally painted by well-known folk artist Bonnie White, the Spooked Print is visually rich in color and detail. Excitement is in the air as the town's children enjoy an evening filled with sweets and Madame Monique's fortune telling. The jack-o-lanterns are all aglow on Halloween night, as Victorian style

homes adorn the hillside and trick-or-treaters run through the village streets. The print's textured finish gives it the look of a real oil painting. We love this festive Halloween print because it's proudly made here in the USA. *...Story cont. on Page 6B...*



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# Halloween Decor

## Story cont. from Page 5B

Don't forget your floors when decorating this season. Our new Harvest Hooked Wool Rug is the perfect way to get in the spirit this Halloween. Exclusive for Sturbridge, welcome your guests with this beautifully detailed accent rug in the entryway of your home. You could also use this rug near the kitchen sink or back door too. Black crows appear merely as shadows on the desolate trees with full moon in the distance, and three pumpkins in graduating sizes take front and center with "Harvest" clearly stated below. Designed by artist Dianna Swartz and crafted of 100% hooked wool, this rug is perfect throughout the entire fall season.

Next up, a whimsically different Halloween decorative, you won't find in stores. Our Cat Witch Riding Broom Tin Sculpture makes a statement at over two feet tall. A unique tin sculpture delights us with a cat woman's fashionable approach to broomstick riding. Her black dress is accented by a printed, vintage black and white design. We also note a curly orange shirt collar that frames her cute cat face with whiskers. Glittery accents, white knee-high boots and an unusually tall wire hat, detailed with a star and white feather, complete her look. Display on a side table, mantle or table center this Halloween. See sculpture at <http://www.sturbridgeyankee.com>

Our Haunted House Lace Panel will create the spooky Halloween environment you're after this season. Delicate black lace features an eerie scene of sparse trees, jack-o-lanterns, spider webs, and even an owl looks over the lone haunted house on the top of the hill. Fitting a standard size, sliding glass door or perhaps if you have, can also cover side by side windows. This black sheer panel will add the right element to your Halloween décor, with its staggered scalloped edges for the finishing touch. Made here in the USA, the Haunted House Lace Panel is even machine washable, for ultimate convenience this season.

Last but certainly not least, is our new Clarice the Witch Soft Sculpture. At Sturbridge Yankee Workshop there are many Halloween sculptures to choose from, but Clarice takes center stage this year. Pondering over which spell to cast on the pumpkin head she carries, this soft sculpture is designed by artist Joe Spencer. Details of note are her bulging, green painted eyes, her black nails and her realistic, white yarn hair. Dressed in black with orange accents, she is weighted to sit up right on a bench, chair or staircase of your

home.

With all the fantastic Halloween décor at Sturbridge Yankee Workshop, there is no need to shop anywhere else for quality Halloween products for the upcoming season. There is much more to choose from on our website, so we hope you have a chance to browse the entire assortment. Enjoy, and as always thanks for shopping Sturbridge Yankee Workshop. Visit us at: <http://www.sturbridgeyankee.com>





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# Hurricane Season:

## *One Month Remaining, How To Be Prepared*

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The 2012 hurricane season lasts through November 30, which means there is one month left before Florida residents are in the clear. This season the strongest hurricane to hit the United States was hurricane Isaac. To say that Florida residents have been lucky is an understatement.

However, this does not mean that we are safe from harm just yet. With a month left in the season, and a chance for any number of tropical depressions and hurricanes to form, residents need to stay prepared. The National Hurricane Center's website offers many informative guides to being prepared during the hurricane season.

According to their pamphlet on Tropical Cyclones the first step to hurricane safety is identifying safe areas. It is important to know what evacuation route you will take if needed and where local safety shelters are. They are usually located in schools and school gyms because of their ability to hold high numbers of people.

It is also important to develop a hurricane safety box or closet for your home. This should contain battery pow-

ered radios and extra batteries. This will be important if the power goes out and will allow you to stay informed on current conditions. It is also important to maintain at least three days worth of non-perishable food items so that you and your family will be able to stay in your home until the storm has passed.

One of the most important items to have is plenty of water. If the water to your home is cut off during the storm, bottles of water will keep your family hydrated. Another good idea is to buy plywood and other building materials so that if a storm is coming you can put them over windows and other openings in your home.

Oftentimes storms will not require a family to leave their home. However, people should plan to leave their home if they live in certain areas or in certain types of homes. People living on the coastline should be prepared to leave their home during hurricanes due to the chance of flooding. Also, those people living in mobile homes or high-rise buildings should be prepared to leave their home. Mobile homes, no matter how well fastened they are to the ground, have a much higher chance of being lifted by a hurricane. High-rise homeowners should be prepared to leave because ...*Story cont. on Page 9B...*



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# Hurricane

Story cont. from Page 8B

hurricane winds are often much stronger at high elevations.

If you plan on staying in your home during the storm there are a few tips that the NHC offers. One tip is to turn your refrigerator to the maximum cold setting and keep it closed. You should also turn off propane tanks and utilities, and unplug small appliances. Also, fill up bathtubs and large containers with water. This water can be used for flushing and cleaning, but that is it. Do not drink it.

It is important to remember that during a hurricane you should stay away from windows and doors. Small interior rooms are the safest place to be during a storm such as a closet, hallway or bathroom. For those living in two story houses, seek shelter on the first floor interior rooms of your home. People should also be alert for tornadoes because they can often develop during a hurricane. And do not mistake the "eye" of the storm as the storm being over. This is simply a calm point in the storm that can pass quickly, and the hurricane force winds and rain will return.

# Removable Wall Decals Make Decorating Easy And Affordable

Decorating can be a challenge, but wall decals can transform any room into a nature wonderland for restful dreams or turn a child's room into fantasy kingdom of make-believe. Wall Decal Sticker It is a leading provider of affordable and decorative wall decals for creating unique décor accents.

Also known as wall stickers, the firm offers a myriad of wall decals that can be mixed and matched to change an ordinary room into an extraordinary environment. Decals are made of easy care vinyl that can be removed, reused and rearranged. Visitors to the site can choose decals for specific rooms, themes and age groups.

Children love to play pretend and Wall Decal Sticker It provides the elements for youngsters to adorn their walls and ceilings with movie favorites and comic book characters. Icons such as Disney Princesses, Spongebob Squarepants™ and Toy Story™ are offered as standalone figures and as borders. Decorative designs can be removed and replaced as a child's interest's

change.

The firm offers an extensive array of decals and wall stickers for nurseries that encourage visual stimulation, along with those for toddlers. Little girls can frolic with Dora the Explorer™, while boys can indulge their love of dragons and dinosaurs, robots and Go Diego Go™. Number and letter decals provide valuable learning opportunities that are also fun. Children can mark their favorite holidays with seasonal and holiday decals.

Cartoons aren't just for adults and Wall Decal Sticker It provides a cost effective way to turn a recreation room or man cave into an anime fan retreat. The site features characters from popular TV series that includes Tom and Jerry™, Sesame Street™, the Flintstones™, and the American Chopper™ selections are also available.

Those who seek a respite from the day's cares can select from the firm's extensive collection of flowers, trees and butterflies. Home decorators can create a chic ...*Story cont. on Page 10B...*



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# Wall Decals

Story cont. from Page 9B

safari look with a variety of exotic animals, or stay closer to home with a theme that incorporates familiar fish, birds and domesticated animals.

Visitors to the site can choose from colorful polka dots, along with decals to dress up bathrooms and kitchens. Glow in the dark stars and planets, dry erase decals and those for laptops can also be found.

Wall Decal Sticker It provides an easy way to decorate, update a look and add interest to any room. The vinyl decals, stickers and borders are easy to place and reposition as needed to create a variety of customized decors. The firm offers an extensive line of decals for children and adults, providing a unique and affordable way to decorate.

The firm can be reached via email with the convenient form on the website. For more information, visit the website at <http://walldecalstickerit.com>.

# How To Save Money Grocery Shopping

By Kristin Finney  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Madison is the home-  
stead for three grocery  
stores, Harveys, Clover  
Farm and Winn Dixie.  
These chains are very  
good about running specials.  
Harveys and Winn  
Dixie also have weekly  
sales papers. However  
there is more to saving  
money on food supplies  
than simply coupon clip-  
ping.

Here are some tips to  
maximize savings.

Don't be a "loyal" cus-  
tomer. Both the chain

superstores and local  
Clover Farm offer specials  
each week, so bargain  
shop. Price compare, if  
Winn Dixie has strawber-  
ries on sale, but Harveys  
is offering pot roast half  
price, shop at both. Also  
perhaps clover farm has a  
special on canned soups  
this week, so plan your  
menu accordingly. Simply  
put, shop around. One of  
the good things about the  
small town of Madison;  
each of these stores are  
only a couple miles apart.

Try not to shop ...*Story  
cont. on Page 11B...*



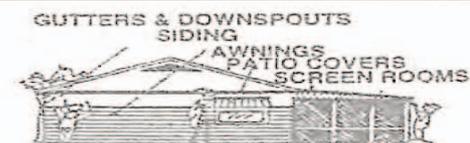
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# Grocery Shopping

Story cont. from Page 10B

by brand. Brand names are often more expensive and not really better quality than store brands. Store brand products are also more likely to go on sale than brand name.

This is the most important one; don't go grocery shopping when hungry. When a person is hungry, they are more likely to buy unneeded and unhealthy foods that would not have been bought originally.

Shop with a list, and try to obey that list. If a shopper goes to the store and has a list they are a lot less likely to grab unnecessary items. Thus saving money. This also includes avoiding aisles that don't contain food you need. Not buying chips this week? Skip going down that aisle.

Plan the week's menu based on what is on sale. If chicken breast is on sale, then eat grilled chicken one night. Also, pastas and rices go on sale more often than most foods. They are also regularly cheaper than most products.

Another idea to save cash is to buy deli made meals. Both grocery stores in Madison have delis that offer weekly specials on pre-made meals. This saves time and money at home.

Ultimately, Madison is a great place to grocery shop. Harveys, Winn Dixie and Clover Farm are truly customer friendly grocery stores. Make sure to check out next week's sale papers and stop by Clover Farm to see what specials there are each week then plan your shopping accordingly.

With the economy in such turmoil, saving money is a way of life. These stores are very interesting in saving their customers money and making sure they have a great shopping experience. Clover Farm owner Mike Dowdy shares, "We are local and we want to make sure we are a part of the community and we want to make sure that we are a great part of the community."

## H&S Supply Is The Place To Go For Plumbing And Kitchen Needs

By Jacob Bemby  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

Featuring the only Kohler showroom between Atlanta and Tampa, H&S Supply in Valdosta, Ga., is the place to go for your plumbing and kitchen needs.

The store, which has been in business since 1969, deals with plumbers and builders and well as homeowners. In addition to Kohler, other products are available from Delta, Elkey, Bathcraft, Sterling and Aquaglass.

Sales representatives are pleased to welcome you to the new 229 North St. Augustine Road address, where they have been for the last three months.

Jeff White, Vicki Giddens, Pete Arroyo and Randy Blanchett own the store.

H&S Supply has another store, located at 528 N. Main Street in Moultrie, Ga.



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# Ewing Construction Offers Quality Guaranteed

By Jacob Bembry  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Quality is guaranteed at Ewing Construction and Roofing.

With over 13 years in the business (five locally and eight in St. Cloud), Ben Ewing and company are happy to assist with your roofing needs.

"We do all roof types, but our biggest market is metal roofing," Ewing said.

Ewing pointed out the advantages of metal roofs over shingled roofs.

"Two of the major things are they last a lot longer and they give the biggest insulation advantage," he said.

Ewing said that a metal roof could cut down on the heat gain in a home's living space by 40-45 percent. The roofs are Energy Star rated and they are environmentally friendly, made from 60-65 percent recycled materials.

"We offer a 25-year warranty on galvalume roofs and a 40-year warranty on painted metal roofs," Ewing said, noting that the paint offers an extra layer of protection over just a regular metal roof.

The roofs are installed with ZAC lifetime screws.

"Using the wrong screws will shorten the life of your new roof," Ewing said.

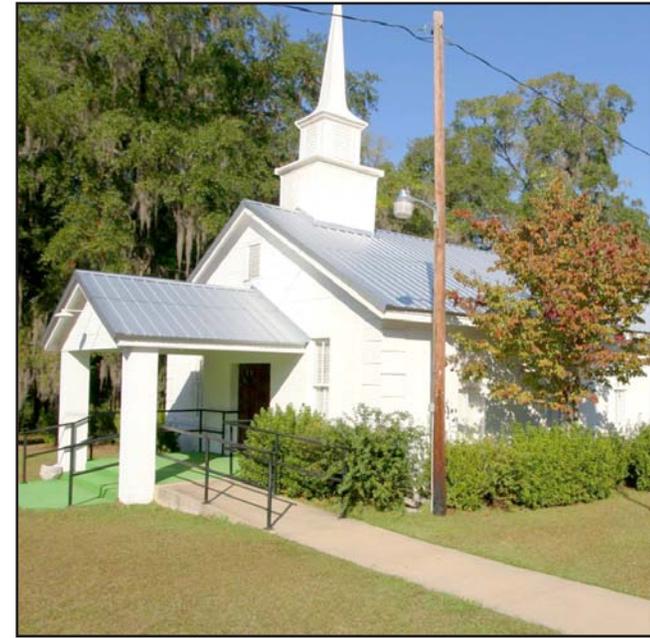
The cheaper one-quarter inch screws will typically fail within five years.

On the company's website ([www.ewingconstructionandroofing.com](http://www.ewingconstructionandroofing.com)), Ewing points out that he has been told by several metal roof manufacturers that the use of the quarter-inch screws will void the warranty on the metal panels.

One can drive throughout Madison County to see the handiwork that Ewing Construction and Roofing has done. They have put roofs on New Testament Christian Center, the Midway Church of God parsonage, Harmony Baptist Church and Ken's Barbecue, as well as on a number of homes in the area.

"We're dedicated to quality," Ewing said. "We want to make sure the customer gets a quality product properly. We don't cut corners anywhere. Some others do to get money or to get the job. They put on a temporary roof. We've had to go behind other contractors and replace roofs that didn't have to be replaced, due to the other people cutting corners."

Ewing said his company also carries worker's compensation insurance.



"That's very important to the homeowner," he said.

For your roofing needs, call Ewing Construction and Roofing at (850) 971-5043 or visit them online at [www.ewingconstructionandroofing.com](http://www.ewingconstructionandroofing.com).

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## Join The Arbor Day Foundation In September And Receive 10 Free Live Oak Trees For Planting In Florida

Everyone from Florida who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free live oak trees as part of the Foundation's Trees for America program.

Through Trees for America, everyone is encouraged to plant trees for the benefit of the environment and quality-of-life. With one million members, the Arbor Day Foundation is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

"Those who plant live oak trees will enjoy shade and splendor for years and years to come," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees will also add to the proud heritage of Florida's 160 Tree City USA communities. For the last 36 years, Tree City USA has supported effective urban forest management across Florida, and planting these trees will enhance the state's tree-planting tradition."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between October 15 and December 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation will also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive 10 free live oak trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Live Oaks, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by September 29, 2012, or join online at [arborday.org/september](http://arborday.org/september).



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# Triangle Furniture Offers Quality Furniture At Lower Prices

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

“Same furniture. Same quality. Same warranty. Just lower prices,” is the motto of Triangle Furniture.

The company has been operating as Triangle Furniture since 2003. They had been Triangle Ventures since 1980. They sell all the basic furniture for living rooms and bedrooms. Brands include Ashley Furniture, Best Chair and Englander mattresses.

Triangle's sales associates are willing to help everyone. They greet you once you are in the store and then take a hands-off approach, not hovering near the customer.

Triangle can order anything they may not have for the customer.

Triangle doesn't usually offer sales,

instead they give people the best price from the beginning, being lower than 90 percent of their competitors' sales prices most of the time. They try to do package deals and offer people even lower prices when they buy living room or bedroom packages together.

The company strives to have different furnishings for their customers.

Triangle Furniture offers in-store financing and delivery.

Triangle Furniture has two showrooms. There is one located at 3390 N. Valdosta Road in Valdosta, Ga., and the other is located at 497 Industrial Drive in Moultrie, Ga. The Valdosta location's hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



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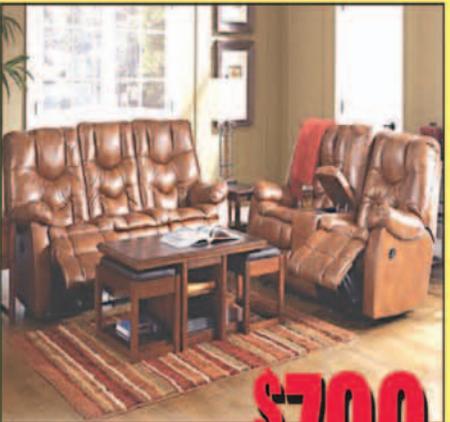
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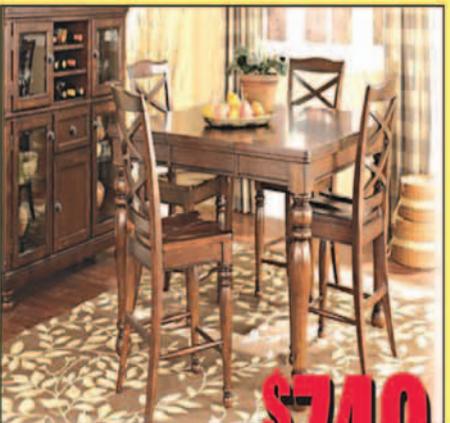
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