

Wed. December 28, 2011

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Kendrick Brown



Byron Irvine



Mark Steven



Diane Thompson



William Harrelson



Shaneka Norton



Matthew Taylor

## One Caught, 12 Sought

Probation and Parole has announced that it has captured one absconder, Dustin Lee Orvis, while they continue to search for 12 more fugitives from justice. Anyone with any information on these suspects is asked to call Jarrett Jarvis at Probation and Parole at (850) 973-5096.

## Madison Man Killed Christmas Eve



*Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Emerald Greene, December 24, 2011*

By Jacob Bembry  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

A Madison man was killed early Christmas Eve morning when his 2004 Nissan struck a tree.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Melvin James Mathis, Jr., 26, of Madi-

son, was traveling west on Old County Camp Road.

Mathis failed to maintain a single lane and traveled onto the south shoulder, where his Nissan struck a tree.

Mathis was pronounced dead on the scene by Madison County EMS.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office, Madison Police Department, Madison County EMS and Madison Fire and Rescue assisted FHP at the scene.

FHP Cpl. Donnie Pitts was the accident investigator, as well as the homicide investigator.

## Volunteers Prove Lee Is A Great Place To Live



*Photo submitted*

Wow! Lee is a great place to live. On Friday morning a bunch of men came together to build a pillar of the community a ramp so Joe Odom could access his home. Chief Reese Thomas, Jeremy Pryor, and Ted Thomas from the Lee Volunteer Fire Department, along with Leroy Rutherford Jr., Tri-County Electric Co-op; Gary Howell, Richard Anderson, Bens Towing; and Leroy Rutherford Sr., Woodmen of The World Lodge and Willie Odom (Uncle Joe's little brother) made it happen despite a little rain. A great big thank you to all who helped. Pictured left to right: Jeremy Pryor, Leroy Rutherford, Sr., Ted Thomas and Leroy Rutherford, Jr.

## Fire Causes Damage

By Jacob Bembry  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

A fire that erupted Monday, Dec. 26, was contained to one room and the attic.

According to Madison Fire and Rescue, they responded to a fire at a residence on Moore Street. The resident of the home was Gracie Roberson.

The fire department said there was smoke damage but the bedroom had pretty much burnt up.

The damage was contained to the bedroom and the attic.

No one was injured in the fire.

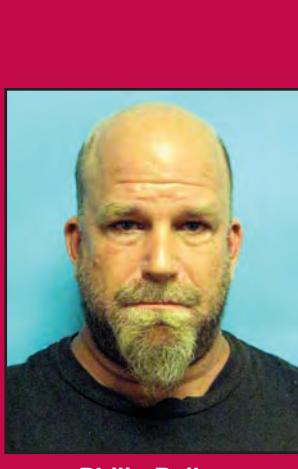
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Christopher Crawford



Dustin Orvis



Philip Bailey



Renee Brown



Matthew Crawford



Carter Haynes

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Wed 64/36

12/28 Mainly sunny. High 64F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.

Thu 66/41

12/29 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Fri 72/49

12/30 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

Sat 74/47

12/31 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

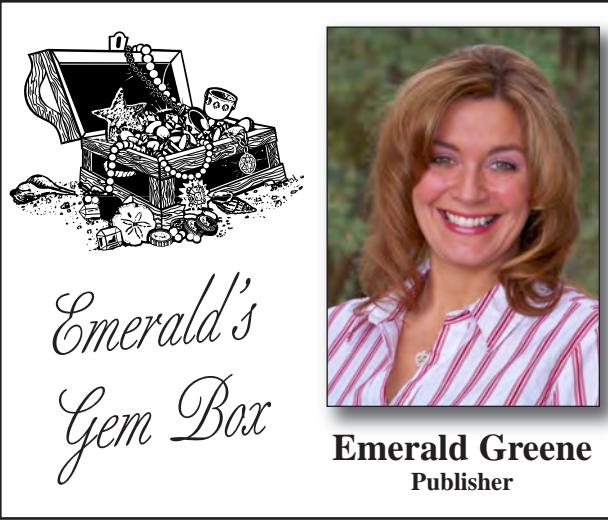
## Local Weather

2A • Madison County Carrier

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Wednesday, December 28, 2011

# VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS



## Happy New Year!

Another year has come and gone. Time flies so fast. It's time to take down the Christmas tree and bring in the New Year with a fresh new start.

With the ending of another year of our lives, we must not look back at the past, but look forward to a new beginning with 2012.

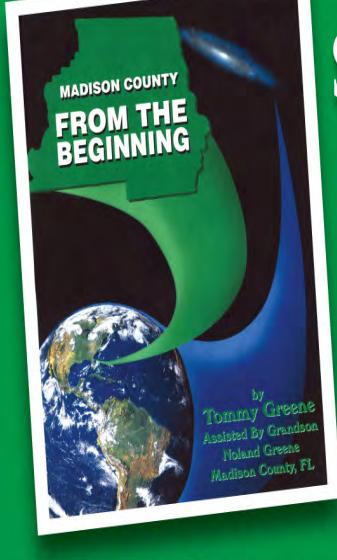
*Bring the past only if you are going to build from it.* ~Domenico Cieri Estrada

*What you need to know about the past is that no matter what has happened, it has all worked together to bring you to this very moment. And this is the moment you can choose to make everything new. Right now.* ~Author Unknown

I wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Until then....see you around the town.

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When tackling Social Security's nagging problem of under funding and future insolvency, there is a steady drumbeat to raise the limit of income subject to the tax, also known as the Social Security wage cap. Most of us don't reach that cap with our monthly wages and salary, so we're not aware of the limit. This year, the cap is \$106,800. Next year, it rises to \$110K. Any income (wages and salary) above that amount is not subject to the 12.4 percent FICA tax.

It sounds so easy to advocate raising or even eliminating the wage cap. Why not do it? Let me give you a couple of important reasons why we shouldn't.

Let's review a little history. That's always a good place to start when considering any problem. Here are two important questions to ask before we "jump off the wage cap cliff." First, how long have wages been subject to a Social Security wage cap and second, why was a cap originally put in place?

Ever since Social Security was enacted and signed into law in 1935, there has been a cap on income subject to the FICA (Federal Insurance Contribution Act) tax. In 1939, the limit was the first \$3000 of income. Today, it is more than \$100K, but inflation takes its toll.

Why did the originators of Social Security establish an income cap in the first place? For one thing, they correctly reasoned that high earners were planning for retirement on their own without government assistance. But even more importantly, they guaranteed that everyone enrolled in Social Security would receive all they put in to the program plus interest. Without the income cap, that guarantee would fall apart.

Don't believe me? In 1936, a well-meaning New Dealer by the name of Ethyl Smith wrote a four-page pamphlet explaining Social Security to the av-

erage American worker. It was given to every working American enrolled in the system. In the pamphlet, Ethyl wrote this: "What you get from the government plan will always be more than you have paid in taxes and usually more than you can get for yourself by putting away the same amount of money each week in some other way."

Ethyl wrote some other pretty amazing things in that pamphlet which incidentally, you can find on the Social security website. It is easy to critique and criticize her statements, but I'm certain that when she wrote these words 75 years ago, she meant everything and believed it to be true. Ethyl was looking into a crystal ball and predicting the future. Today, we have the advantage of three-quarters of a century of experience – the crystal ball is much clearer.

But this much is clear – if there had been no cap on earnings subject to the payroll tax, Ethyl Smith could not have written those words in her pamphlet. Likely, there would have been no Social Security either. The income cap was a fundamental element of the original FICA.

If you're an ardent student of what I've written about Social Security over the past six years, you know that I'm an advocate for reform to update the Depression era program to something that will work in the 21st Century. So this is what I would say to those who want to eliminate the income cap – fine, but my price is total reform of the system. To use the existing system and eliminate the payroll cap would be akin to removing the cornerstone from the foundation of a building – it undermines the foundation.

The income cap was a fundamental assumption that the FICA was based upon 76 years ago. I will fight its elimination tooth and nail.

## Raise the Social Security Cap?

### National Security



**Joe Boyles**  
Guest Columnist

## Red, White and True Mysteries

### What Kept These Inventors From Obtaining Patents On Their Own?

Chelsea Lannon invented a diaper with a pocket to hold a baby wipe and baby powder, but she couldn't get a patent without some help.

The Thompson sisters, Theresa and Mary, invented a solar teepee and called it a "Wigwam." Pretty clever name, but the sisters weren't able to get a patent on their own.

Suzanna Goodin invented an edible spoon-shaped cracker. She even won a grand prize for her invention yet she, too, needed some help to get a patent.

Why couldn't these young women get patents on their own? Was it because property laws prevented women from owning property, including patents, during part of the 1700's and 1800's?

No, because all of the above inventors were born in the 1900's. Besides, inventor Robert Patch had the same problem as the other four inventors. So did Brandon Whale and his brother, Spencer, when they invented separate devices to help hospital patients.

Why, then, couldn't these inventors receive patents on their own?

It was because they weren't even 10 years old yet!

Young Ms. Lannon was only 8 years old when she invented the diaper with a pocket in 1994, and the Thompson sisters were only 8 and 9 when they invented their solar teepee in 1960. Ms. Goodin was only 6 when she invented her prize-winning edible spoon-shaped cracker.

Robert Patch was only 6 in 1963 when he received a patent for a toy truck that could be changed into different types of trucks.

Brandon Whale invented the "PaceMate" in 1998 to improve the electrical conductivity of his moth-

er's sensor-bracelets after she had an operation for a pacemaker implant. Brandon's brother, Spencer, created a device to attach IV's to the wheeled vehicles that child patients rode in, allowing the IV's to stay in place.

In the end, each of these young inventors, except the Whale brothers, received patents for their great ideas.

By comparison, how old were some of the more famous inventors when they first achieved success?

Thomas Edison was 21 when he received his first patent, which was for a vote counter intended to speed things up in Congress. Despite the benefits it offered, it never made it onto the market.

Margaret Knight was 30 when she invented the machine that makes the square-bottom paper bags in 1871, and that type of bag is still being used today. Alexander Graham Bell was 29 when he invented the telephone in 1876. Mattel co-founder Ruth Handler was 43 years old when she introduced the world to the Barbie Doll in 1959.

The United States Patent Office does not have an age requirement for receiving a patent. Most inventors, though, whether they're 8 or 80, need the assistance of a patent attorney to either prepare their patent application or at least review it before submitting it to the patent office. And most child inventors need to get some parental assistance when paying for the patent application and attorney fees.

# # #

Paul Niemann can be reached at niemann7@aol.com

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# AROUND MADISON

## Happy Christmas To All And To All A Good Night, From Kiwanis

By Lynette Norris  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

Since it was just three days before Christmas, the Kiwanis meeting was a little different.

Edith Day, the guest speaker, was explaining how some of America's most beloved Christmas traditions came about.

Opening with a dramatic reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," arguably one of the best known poems penned by an American (Clement Clarke Moore in 1822), she told those gathered about how this one 19th century poem is largely responsible for the modern conception of Santa Claus, from his rotund appearance to his mode of transportation, a sleigh pulled by the eight flying reindeer named Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, etc.

The Christmas tree came to us from Germany, where legend has it that while St. Boniface was converting the ancient Germans to Christianity some 1000 years ago, he came across a group of pagans still worshipping an old oak. Furious, he had the oak cut down, only to see a young fir tree spring up in its place.

The astonished saint took the fir tree to be a sign of the Christian faith. Ever since then, the fir tree, with its evergreen branches uplifted and always pointed to the sky, has been closely

associated with the Christmas season, becoming a symbol of immortality and peace.

However, it wasn't until the 16th century that people began taking fir trees indoors and lighting them with candles attached to the branches. Martin Luther is said to have been the first to do this, celebrating the joy of Christmas with a decorated tree lit with candles.

Poinsettias come from the Mexican tradition of surrounding the town square with poinsettia plants during the Christmas season.

Then, Day spoke of childhood Christmases in Denmark with Grandma and Grandpa Hanson, who had their own Christmas tradition of putting the tree out in the very center of the living room. As she told of the wonderful memories of Christmases with her grandparents and other family members gathered around the big tree in the living room, she began calling on those gathered at the meeting to share some of their own Christmas traditions and special Christmas memories.

Jerome Wyche was six years old the very first time he saw Santa Claus in person, and recalls that it was "scary."

Allen Cherry remembers a very special Christmas program

from his childhood at Lee Methodist Church, with Mrs. Margaret Almond reading the Christmas story.

George Willis recalls Christmases during the depression with no electricity, yet there was still joy in finding nuts, fruits, and maybe one or two other small surprises in their stockings Christmas morning.

Roy Ellis and his sister used to set stuff out for Santa, and because the house had no chimney, they always had to make sure the door was unlocked.

Jim Holben remembers his favorite childhood Christmas as the year he got a horse, his older sister got a bike and his younger sister, a tricycle. "And that was just last year!" he said.

Mary Ann Sanders remembers riding to the Christmas tree lot with her parents and siblings, singing Christmas carols all the way there and back.

Cindy Vees remembers Christmases with her children and a shiny aluminum Christmas tree with a rotating colored light beneath it.

Lucille Day remembers getting a tricycle when she was three, and wanting to know how Santa got through the fence and the gate to get to the house. In her adulthood, she remembers re-wrapping many presents her son

Michael had unwrapped early, and the Christmas tree always being "Michaelized" – pushed over – and having to be set upright again.

Joyce Bethea remembers her dad going to the store and coming back home with the trunk full of gifts for everyone. One year, overcome with curiosity, unwrapped her presents early to see what was in them, then carefully rewrapped them. The next day, she discovered that without the element of surprise and anticipation, unwrapping the gifts under the tree wasn't nearly as much fun. "I discovered that I wanted to be surprised." She said. "I never did that again."

Frances Ginn has always enjoyed a two-week celebration during the Christmas holiday season, celebrating one week with one side of the family and the next week with the other side, a tradition that continues to this day.

After the meeting adjourned, people were talking over last minute shopping trips and other details, but mostly they

were looking forward to spending some time with their families, many of whom were adult children and grandchildren coming in from out of town. Others were traveling themselves to see distant family members and



Green Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, December 26, 2011

All dressed up in her Christmas clothes and brimming with Christmas spirit, Edith Day brings a special sense of joy and celebration to the Dec. 22 Kiwanis Club meeting.

friends they didn't get to see very often at other times of the year.

As they dispersed, wishing each other Merry Christmas and happy holidays, it made one think of the last two lines of the poem that Edith Day had read a little earlier: *And I heard them exclaim e're they drove out of sight, Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.*"

## NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION CITY OF MADISON, FLORIDA

The City of Madison will hold an election on March 13, 2012, for the purpose of electing (2) two Commissioners for a term of (4) four years each. The districts involved in the elections are 2 and 3. The qualifying time is from noon January 23, 2012 until noon, January 27, 2012.

For further information, please call Lee Anne Hall, City Clerk at 973-5081.

## Sootkoos Named Champion



**Photo submitted**  
**Joan Sootkoos, North Florida Workforce Professional Champion**

Recently, Joan Sootkoos was named North Florida Workforce's "Workforce Professional Champion." At the Workforce Professional Development Academy in Orlando (December 7-9), she was honored with other regional Champions in a special ceremony.

The Workforce Professional Champion Award is described as a commendation with which "one is acknowledged to be better than all others." The individuals nominated for the award have been recognized for sharing their expertise and going far beyond the traditional expectations of their job. Sootkoos, who came to Workforce as a dislocated worker in 2010, was hired shortly thereafter as the Workforce Innovation Act (WIA) Adult Career Consultant. She was previously employed as an Adult Education/GED Prep Instructor with North Florida Community College.

When Sootkoos isn't busy with her own caseload as a Career Consultant, she's pitching in the Resource Room to provide services and assist with

workshops available to all jobseekers.

Her innate ability to guide job-seekers gently, nurturing them and promoting positive outcomes, has been beneficial to North Florida Workforce. Although she's only been employed by Workforce since early 2010, she's made a huge impact on her team.

According to teammate Jaime Greene, "Joan Sootkoos is innovation personified to our team. From the moment she started, she provided a shot of new energy and inspiration. Her resourcefulness and varied background of expertise has proven effective in motivating her customers, as well as her coworkers. She looks for any opportunity to enhance her customers' job seeking experience, even creating a personalized profile to allow them to shine. She is a leader in customer service to her coworkers and customers, seeking out the hard cases to find a way to brighten their day.

Joan comes to the office with a smile on her face every day and she is an inspiration to us all to assist our customers to the fullest extent."

Sootkoos is originally from the Miami area. She and her husband, Dennis, enjoy outdoor activities, including gardening, cycling and kayaking.

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## NOTICE FROM: Supervisor of Elections Thomas "Tommy" Hardee

### PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION

**January 31, 2012**

### WHAT IS A PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP) ELECTION?

An election to select a party's candidate who runs against the other party's candidate. Only voters registered in the party of the candidates running are eligible to vote on that contest. As a reminder, by law, Florida is a closed primary state. Voters may only vote for candidates in their party of registration, and because the Democratic candidate has already been selected (Barack Obama), it will be a partisan election for registered Republicans only. Please call the Supervisor of Elections office at 850-973-6507 to verify your party of registration. You may also visit our website at [www.votemadison.com](http://www.votemadison.com) and go to Register to Vote then choose Check Your Registration Status.



**Book Closing Date**

**January 3, 2012**

### BOOK CLOSING

The book closing date is the statewide deadline to register to vote or make any party changes. The book closing date for the Presidential Preference Primary Election is January 3, 2012. If you need to register to vote or would like to make a party change you must complete a voter registration form and submit it to the elections office on or before this book closing date. Once the registration books close, only updates to a voter's name, address and signature shall be permitted.

### **POLL WORKER**

#### Would you like to be a Poll Worker?

Our Elections could not be accomplished without the great work of our citizen poll workers. The accuracy and effectiveness of our elections requires the combined efforts of our skilled poll workers. If you would like to be a part of this patriotic process, please contact the office or Supervisor of Elections Tommy Hardee at 545-7228(cell).

# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## Inaugural Northeast Soul Food Festival

By Kristin Finney  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

Car shows and soul food, oh my! On Friday, February 17, and Saturday February 18, HottCoffey Records and the On The Rise TV Show will be bringing a festival of epic proportions to Madison County. The festival is being held at the Madison County Recreation Center, located at 320 SW Arnold St. in Madison.

There will be live performances by Tank on Paint, Ceeje the Kid, Essence Green, Rashonda Denison and many more. There will be a cake auction and car show during the festival. There will also be live celebrity entertainment, gospel shows and official parties. There will also be plenty of soul food for everyone to enjoy.

Not only are Madison residents invited to the festival, those in the surrounding counties are as well. There will be a chance that those who attend could end up on TV thanks to FMN Live Productions.

"Our main focus is trying to get the community together as a whole to come out and have a good time. We are inviting everyone in all of the surrounding areas to join us. We might even have some people coming from Jacksonville and Miami area. The main purpose of this is trying to help support the recreation center by trying to remove some of the financial burdens that they have. Also, we are trying to have fun. I have invited some prominent members of society to try to expand the effort," said Clifford Brown, who is helping put together the event.

You can visit the website at [youtube.com/Ddj5starsturna](http://youtube.com/Ddj5starsturna) or [myspace.com/DJ Prince of Juile](http://myspace.com/DJ Prince of Juile). You can call Diddy Coffee for registration information and vendor info at 904-576-2568. You can also call Clifford Brown at 904-654-1428.

Graveside funeral services will be Tuesday, December 27, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Midway Cemetery. Visitation was held Monday, December 26, 2011, from 5-7 p.m. at Beggs Funeral Home.

She was born in Madison, where she lived all her life. She was survived by one daughter, Libby Headley; two sisters, Carol Harrington (Jerry) of Valdosta, Ga., and Marie McNicol (Doug) of Lee; a sister-in-law, Carlene Bell; one grandson, Nathan Bearden; and several nieces and nephews.

Beggs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, (850) 973-2258.

Martha Lou Bell Provan, 74, died Saturday, December 24, 2011, at Lake Park of Madison.

## Madison Accepts Bid For Home Demolition

By Ginger Jarvis  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

At their regular meeting on December 13, Madison's city commissioners accepted a bid from Brandies to demolish the Elnora Franklin home at 279 SE Pride Street. Supervisor of Public Works Chuck Hitchcock presented bids from Brandies, Kinsley, Blanton, McGhee, and Live Oak Management Group.

Hitchcock further reported that the Zoning Board is considering a special exemption for Lisa Tuten for a preschool/day care facility in a property that had earlier been listed for demolition. They are also working with Roy Miliron for a special exemption for a church on Priest Street in the former insurance building just north of the Woman's Club building.

He also reported that work has begun on revamping the boiler system at North Florida Community College. Boilers in existing buildings (except for the Student Center) will be placed in a newly-constructed boiler room. The cost for the work is set at \$526,000.

Hitchcock reported

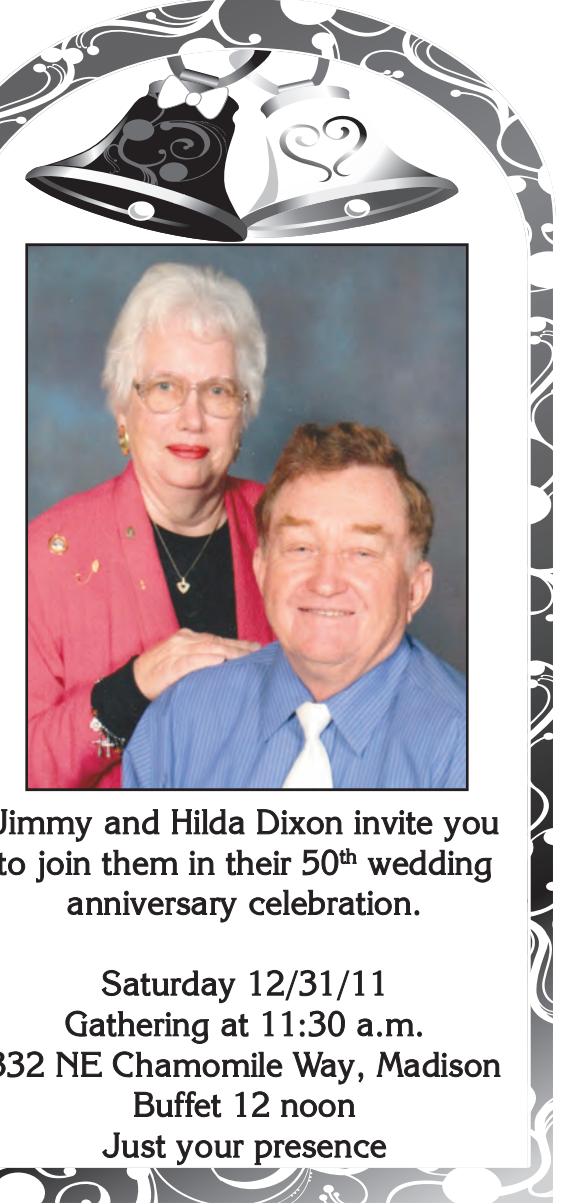
that he is awaiting the final plans from the CRA for the new hospital. Zoning for the hospital has been approved.

In other reports, Police Chief Gary Calhoun stated that the arrest of a man who crashed a stolen vehicle cleared several crimes including residential burglaries, vehicle burglaries, and another stolen vehicle. He said that stolen property has been recovered.

Fire Chief Alfred Martin reported that he is presently seeking a firefighter to replace William Howard, who recently resigned. He also said that the department is presently testing all hoses.

The commissioners reviewed employee holidays for 2012. The list includes 12 holidays, starting with New Year's Day on Monday, January 2, 2012.

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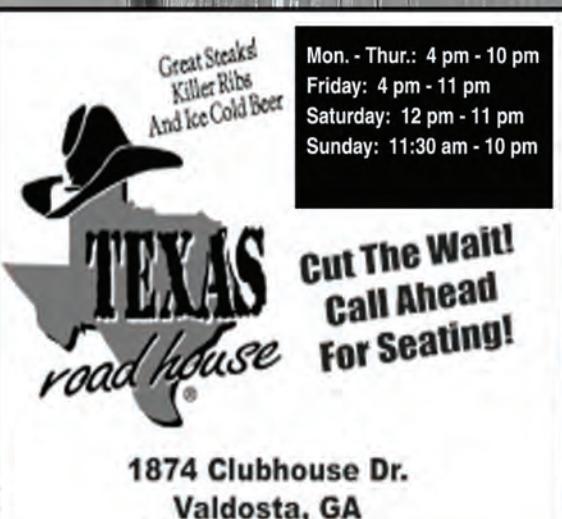
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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## Christmas With A Twist At 39ers Club

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The last time folks saw her at the 39ers Club, she was *Suzi Jeanette*, rock-star alter-ego of Sarah Jean Copeland.

This time, she was *Sarah...Unchained*.

Copeland, Rev. John Hopwood, Bob Smith, Faye Todd and Ginger Jarvis brought quite a lively and varied holiday performance to the Dec. 20 meeting of the 39ers Club in the Grace Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Grace Presbyterian's pianist Faye Todd played a medley of Christmas carols while everyone enjoyed lunch in a holiday setting of green tablecloths and golden tinsel. Moments later, Todd played accompaniment for Bob Smith, who opened the show with a song specially requested by Liz Sullivan, "Oh Danny Boy."

Then, with the help of a headscarf and sunglasses, Sarah Jean Copeland transformed herself into *Sarah...Unchained*, belting out "What A Christmas to Have the Blues," while Ginger Jarvis played the piano.

She also sang several "Christmas With a Twist" duets, accompanied by Rev. John Hopwood on the guitar; singing familiar Christmas carols paired with well-known hymns sung to a different melody. "O Come Emmanuel" was paired with "Rock of Ages" and "O little Town of Bethlehem" with "Amazing Grace."

Alternating between standing at the microphone and playing the electronic keyboard, Copeland sang harmony with the Reverend for sev-



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, December 20, 2011

**Bob Smith delivers a solid performance of "Oh Danny Boy" at the 39ers Club.**

eral more Christmas songs, including "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "What Child Is This," closing the show with a sing-along of "Silent Night."

The 39ers Club meets at noon the third Tuesday of every other month in the Grace Presbyterian Fel-



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, December 20, 2011

**Sarah Jean Copeland becomes *Sarah...Unchained* for "What a Christmas to Have the Blues."**

lowsip Hall. The meetings and the lunch are free. Anyone who is "39" or above, and who enjoys meeting friends for good food, good music and a good time is welcome...no matter how many times they've been 39!

## Senior Appreciation Day Touches Lives



Photo submitted

Over thirty volunteers participated in recent yard cleaning and porch fix-ups during the Senior Appreciation Day held in November and December at the homes of senior citizens.

Over thirty volunteers participated in recent yard cleaning and porch fix-ups during the Senior Appreciation Day held in November and December at the homes of senior citizens. The work days were arranged through the Madison County Senior Center.

A breakfast was held December 3 at the Senior Center to start the day. Teams of volunteers, many from area churches, fanned out to help seniors in Madison, Cherry Lake, Lee and Lamont, with chores they can no longer do themselves.

"It was an enjoyable day for all of us. These volunteers are touching lives," said Executive Director, Rosa Richardson of the Senior Citizens Council of Madison County, which operates the Senior Center.

Pastor Timmy Dyke from Pine Grove Baptist was able to purchase rakes and shovels through generous donations made to the Senior Center.

Boyz to Kings began to work in November and they plan to continue throughout the year providing help to frail senior citizens. Boyz to King supporters Marvin "Merv" Mattair, Charles W. Fulmer, Sr., Charles Kenneth Fulmer, Jr., and members David Orr and Isaiah Gaster participated in the Dec. 3 work day.

Other volunteers that put muscle into Senior Appreciation Day were: James A. Ray, president of the Senior Citizens Council of Madison County board of directors, Tom Cisco, Hank Grote, John Johnson, Sania Glee, Jackie, Tonya, Caleb and Joshua Watts, Tom Waddail, Betty Maher, Renee and Diane Kilpatrick, Sally Marie Clavell and Sally A. McNealy Clavell, Roy and Bryce Mosley, John Peter son, Carol and Nicolas Rykard, Glenn, Courtney and Camryn Strickland, along with Stephanie, Taylor and Lexie Reyna.

"We'll starting paint and ramp projects in the Spring," said Case Manager Valencia Johnson. Individuals, churches and groups wishing to participate may call (850) 973-4241.

Madison County Senior Center staff members participating in Senior Appreciation Day were Rosa Richardson, director, Elaine Hartley, lead case manager, Betty Johnson, nutritional manager, Valencia Johnson, case manager, Angie Cisco, Older American Act coordinator and Marianne Graves, AA/public relations.

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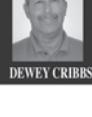


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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## Dreaming Of A Pink Christmas: And the Winner Is....



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, December 16, 2011.

The Cowboy prospects, who will be trying out for the team in January, all pitched in to sell tickets and help make the fundraiser a success.

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

At 5:30 p.m., just before the Dec. 16 drawing for the Princess Cottage on the courthouse lawn, several Madison County High School boys were still working downtown selling those last few tickets for the MCHS baseball team fundraiser.

Lynn Brown and several others were holding up "Last Chance for Tickets" signs for the passing traffic on Base Street. In those final moments before the drawing, several people did pull over and roll down their car windows to purchase a few last-minute chances on the little house on the courthouse lawn.

Amid the last minute ticket sales, Maria Tyson was busy tallying up money and putting the ticket stubs in the big pink plastic bin. As the time was winding down, and the courthouse clock was striking

six, those who were out and about selling tickets were called back, while Maria made sure all their ticket stubs were in the box and no one was still out selling.

Once all the ticket stubs were accounted for, and after several people had taken turns stirring the tickets, shaking the container and turning it over and over, the lid came off and Coach Barrs drew the winning ticket:

And the winner is...Jerry Jackson.

The second drawing, for the second place prize of a gun, Barrs pulled out the ticket belonging to Dianne Scroggs.

The third place prize, a \$50 gift card from the Busy Bee, went to Leigh Ann Browning.

The final total raised for the MCHS baseball program: \$9465.

"We are so thankful to the community for their

support," Maria stated. "And for the donations from Studstill and the Busy Bee."

A few days earlier, Lynn Brown had also spoken of Studstill Lumber's contributions of materials, both for the little white wooden playhouse that was raffled off for Christmas of 2010 and the little pink Princess Cottage this year; this year alone, about \$2000 worth of construction materials went into the Princess Cottage. "They have really gone and beyond," said Brown.

As for the talented eleven hands that created the little cottage, they wish to remain anonymous, but the ladies who organized the event want to thank him and all the elves around town who helped make the fundraiser such a success.

Congratulations to Jerry Jackson, Dianne Scroggs and Leigh Ann Browning.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, December 16, 2011.

Jerry Jackson is the winner of the Princess Cottage for Christmas 2011. Congratulations!

## Seniors Get Ready For Tax Season

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) returns to the Madison County Senior Center in February to give residents age 60 and over help to complete their taxes at no charge.

"We will have the VITA site open at the Senior Citizens Council every other Saturday, beginning Saturday, February 4," said Megan Earnhardt of the United Way of the Big Bend, based in Tallahassee, which sponsors the program.

The Senior Center will be open the following dates: opening Feb. 4, Feb. 18, March 3, March 17, March 31



as well as April 14, the last day for tax assistance.

For more information, contact the Madison County Senior Center at (850) 973-4241. Their address is 1161 SW Harvey Greene Drive in Madison, just off State Road 14 South.

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# HEALTH

## Add A Flu Shot To Your List Of New Year's Resolutions!

*It's Not Too Late For Family Members Of All Generations To Get Vaccinated Against Influenza*

(NAPS)—Many Americans associate influenza with the fall, but you may be surprised to learn that during many flu seasons, influenza activity doesn't peak until winter or early spring. In fact, virus activity peaked in February or later in approximately half of the past 35 flu seasons.

That is why the American Lung Association is spreading the message about the importance of influenza vaccination throughout the winter months and beyond as part of its Faces of Influenza campaign. Everyone 6 months of age and older is recommended for annual immunization, which is safe and effective and the best way to help prevent influenza.

With vaccination recommended and beneficial into the winter months, make it your New Year's resolution to get immunized—it's not too late, and you'll be helping to protect your health and those around you in one simple and achievable step. After being immunized, it takes about two weeks for the body to develop a protective response to the flu vaccine. Parents—don't forget that children 6 months through 8 years of age receiving a flu shot for the first time need two doses approximately one month apart for optimal protection.

"We are all 'faces' of influenza and are recommended by public health officials to get vaccinated this and every year," said Norman H. Edelman, M.D., chief medical officer of the American Lung Association. "It's not too late for family members of all generations to help protect themselves from this potentially deadly disease through immunization."

### About Influenza

Influenza is a serious respiratory illness that kills thousands annually in the U.S. and hospitalizes even more.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older. Groups at higher risk of developing influenza-related complications include: adults 50 years of age and older; children 6 months to 18 years of age; pregnant women; anyone with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease and diabetes; and residents of long-term care facilities. The CDC also recommends a yearly vaccination for those who come into close contact with high-risk groups, such as household contacts, caregivers and health care providers.

For more information about the importance of



Faces of Influenza celebrity spokesperson Kristi Yamaguchi makes influenza vaccination a priority every year.

influenza vaccination into the winter months and early spring, visit [www.facesofinfluenza.org](http://www.facesofinfluenza.org).

Faces of Influenza is an educational initiative from the American Lung Association, made possible through a collaboration with Sanofi Pasteur.

## Minimizing the Impact of Tobacco Advertising on Madison Youth

By Lynette Norris  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

When it comes to marketing know-how, the tobacco industry is a force to be reckoned with, seemingly always a step or two ahead of efforts to discourage or prevent tobacco initiation among teenagers and children. Tobacco-free initiatives are often working to counter the industry's latest marketing strategy.

When cigarette sales to minors were banned outright, the industry began marketing candy-flavored tobacco products which, it could be argued, are made to appeal to minors. Tobacco-free initiatives have been working hard to counteract this tactic and educate the community about the addictive nature and health risks associated with all tobacco products, whether candy-flavored, smokeless or otherwise. Tobacco Free Madison and local Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) members, have secured resolutions from the Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Lee and the City of Greenville, encouraging tobacco retailers to consider the benefits of voluntary policy that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products in their stores. This means that retailers are being asked to consider that if they chose to not sell flavored tobacco products in their stores, fewer youth would be influenced by the marketing tactics of Big Tobacco which means fewer Madison youth will become addicted to tobacco.

Every day, nearly 4,000 minors try their first cigarette, and of those, nearly 1,000 become daily smokers. Successful efforts to keep children tobacco-free until age 18 will reduce their likelihood of becoming adult smokers to around 10 percent.

In 2009, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was given the task of regulating the sale of tobacco products. It has added rules and regulations in an effort to make tobacco products less accessible and less appealing to the underage crowd. The effort goes from federal, through the state, right on down to the local level.

Federal law now requires large, readily visible warning labels on all tobacco products and also mandates that vendors check ID for anyone who looks under 27 years of age; vending machines are restricted to adults-only areas, away from children; vendors may not give away free samples of tobacco products, nor may they sell or give away items such as hats or t-shirts with tobacco company logos. They are also prohibited from breaking open packs of cigarettes or other tobacco products and selling the items individually, a practice that would appeal greatly to minors who might not have much money to spend on tobacco products.

State law now specifies the type, location, and wording of signs required within the retail estab-

lishment, clearly stating that tobacco sales to minors are prohibited.

At the local level, the Madison County Health Department's tobacco program has been surveying five local tobacco retailers in Pinetta, Lee, Greenville, and the I-10 area, to determine how familiar they are with the new FDA regulations.

The survey also assessed arrangements the retailers have with their tobacco suppliers. These arrangements often exchange wholesale discounts on tobacco products for prime advertising locations in the store. To counter the influence of tobacco advertising, retailers are being offered tobacco-free functional items and posters to promote resources available to help people quit. One retailer wanted to also provide Quitline information in their break rooms for their employees to help provide them access to tobacco use cessation resources.

In combating the tobacco industry's advertising clout, Tobacco Free Madison is working at the local level: to build relationships with area retailers to help minimize the impact of tobacco advertising; to educate people, especially youth, about the health risks associated with tobacco use; and to get the word out about the free help available to those who are addicted and want to quit.

A smoker who stands in line at a gas station to buy cigarettes who sees the Florida Quitline poster prominently displayed nearby will know there is free help available should he want to quit. A minor who has no access to tobacco products during adolescence has more time to learn about the harmful consequences of tobacco use and make an informed decision upon reaching adulthood.

In mid-December, Tobacco Free Florida relaunched its website, [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com), to help Floridians quit tobacco, with the latest updates on why you should quit and how to go about it.

In early 2012, the Tobacco Free Florida website will also include sections on how you can help others quit.

If you would like to quit, there are several free resources to help you:

Phone: Florida Quitline, 1-877-U-CAN-NOW. A Quit Coach will help you assess your addiction and map out a personalized quit plan.

Online: The Web Coach, [www.quitnow.net/florida](http://www.quitnow.net/florida). You can create a web-based quit plan that's right for you.

In Person: Contact Preston Mathews, (850) 728-5479. You can sign up for Quit Smoking Now group classes at your local AHEC (Area Health Education Center)

Finally, smokers who don't manage to quit with their first attempt shouldn't be discouraged. Nicot-

tine is a powerful addiction, and most smokers have to make multiple attempts or even try different methods before they finally make the break.

The important thing is, there is free help available. Just ask.

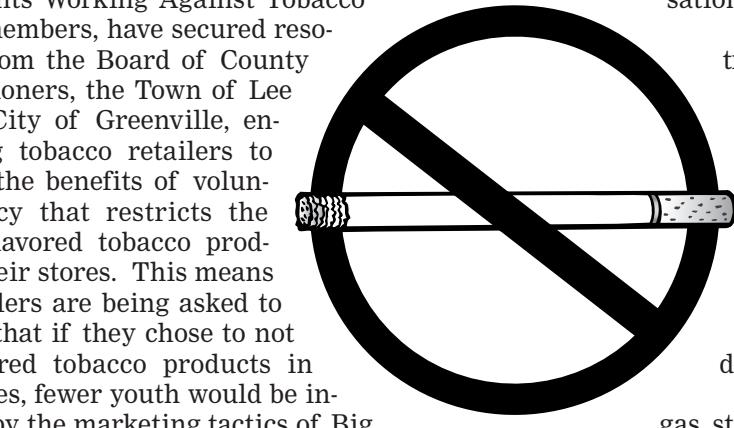


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**Roderick K Shaw III, DMD, MAGD**  
Master of the Academy of General Dentistry  
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Let us feature your questions. Contact us at (850) 250-5964 or [rshaw@drrodrickshaw.com](mailto:rshaw@drrodrickshaw.com)



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On, or around, January 31, 2012, the following channel enhancements/changes will occur for current and new residential and commercial subscribers receiving Comcast's Madison channel lineup (Madison County and surrounding areas).

- WTXL-Bounce will be added to channel 209 as a Limited Basic Service.
- WTXL-Weather, currently on channel 209 as a Limited Basic service, will relocate to channel 210 and remain a Limited Basic service.

\*A digital-ready television set and/or digital equipment may be required to receive certain digital channels or certain services. Service charges may apply. Services not available in all areas, restrictions apply. For information about all of our product offerings, please visit [www.comcast.com](http://www.comcast.com).

12/28

**NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**

The City of Madison, Florida, pursuant to Chapter 114.5, Florida Statutes and the procedures of the City of Madison, is currently accepting Proposals for Professional Auditing Services. The successful proposer is required to be an independent certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State of Florida. The successful proposer will be required to enter into a three-year service contract with the City.

Certified public accountant(s) who are interested in providing this service may obtain a Request for Proposal at Madison City Hall, 321 SW Rutledge Street, Madison, Florida 32340, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Proposals must be received by the City of Madison in a sealed envelope that is clearly marked, "RFP #2012-1, Proposal for Audit Services, no later than 2:00 p.m. E.S.T., March 2, 2012 at which time they will be opened and read aloud.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, to waive minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed by the City to be in the City's best interest.

12/21, 12/28

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**New Line  
Transport****IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CASE NO 2011-102-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JAMES FLOYD REAMS,  
Deceased.**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of JAMES FLOYD REAMS, deceased, whose date of death was October 13, 2011, and the last four digits of whose social security number are 6820, is pending in the Circuit Court for Madison County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Madison County Courthouse, Madison FL 32340. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate upon whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEASED'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEASED'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2011.

THOMAS E STONE

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
PO Box 292  
Madison FL 32341  
850-973-6560

Personal Representative:

JAMES MICHAEL REAMS  
6070 Lake Lanier Heights Rd  
Buford GA 30518

12/21, 12/28

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

GENWORTH FINANCIAL HOME EQUITY ACCESS, INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS LIBERTY REVERSE MORTGAGE, INC.

Plaintiff, CASE NO.: 40-2011-CA-000419

UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF OCIE EDWARDS, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREINAFTER NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN TENANT #1 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT #2 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT #3 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT #4 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY

Defendants

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

To the following Defendant(s):

UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF OCIE EDWARDS, DECEASED  
Last Known Address  
162 SW GANZY AVE  
MADISON, FL 32340

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE ON SOUTH SIDE OF THE SEABOARD COAST LINE RAILROAD WITH THE WEST SIDE OF THE MOSLEY-HALL PUBLIC ROAD AND RUN NORTH 74 1/2 DEGREES WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID RIGHT OF WAY 215 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 30 DEGREES WEST 747 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE SOUTH-SWEEP QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, THEREFROM RUN EAST ALONG SAID LINE 240 FEET TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE MOSLEY-HALL PUBLIC ROAD, THENCE RUN NORTH 30 DEGREES EAST ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE SAID ROAD 680 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING THREE AND ONE-HALF (3 1/2) ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST.

a/k/a 162 SW GANZY AVE, MADISON, FL 32340

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marinocci Law Group, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 on or before January 9, 2012, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the MADISON COUNTY COURIER and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demand in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEED ANY ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL THE ADA COORDINATOR, JACQUETTA BRADLEY, P.O. BOX 1569, LAKE CITY, FL 32056, 386-719-7428, WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE; IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL (800) 955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL (800) 955-8770.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing was mailed to all the parties in the attached mailing list.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 9 day of December, 2011.

TIM SANDERS  
As Clerk of the CourtBy:/s/ Ramona Dickinson  
As Deputy Clerk

12/21, 12/28

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# SCHOOL

## MCHS FCCLA Travels To Greenwood School

On Thursday December 15, the MCHS FCCLA went to Greenwood School in Jasper to provide the annual Christmas Party with all of the trimmings. FCCLA was accompanied by the "The Knights, MCHS Jazz Band who played delightful Christmas tunes to get the children in the holiday mood, while enjoying the music the children were treated to refreshments provided by the FCCLA members.

After the music and refreshment the children received a visit from a very special guest, Santa himself, along with Mrs. Claus and two of the elves, dropped in to deliver a present to each child and to visit the school's preschool classes. Various members had purchased the presents for the children on an individual bases. So as the children's names were called members joined their child to help them open their gift and visit with the child. This provided members with an opportunity to spend precious one-on-one time with the child.

FCCLA has been going to TMR School for over 25 years we value the relationships that have been built with the children and the staff at the Greenwood school. This school is an amazing place for the students who attend there. We would like to thank "The Knights" for their participation in this project and making this event extra special for the children.



Photo submitted

FCCLA members prepare treats for the children's party.



Photo submitted

Playing the roles of Santa and his helpers were, (from left to right) Alaina Pickles, Blake Webb, Kasey Odom and Jacob Moore.

## Closing the STEM/CTE Gap: Sam Stalnaker Addresses School Board

By Lynette Norris  
*Greene Publishing, Inc.*

Sam Stalnaker, former principal of Madison County Central School, addressed the School Board at their final meeting for the year, Dec. 20. Speaking as the new Coordinator for North Florida Career Pathways Consortium that serves the six county area of Madison, Jefferson, Taylor, Lafayette, Hamilton and Suwannee, he stressed the importance of STEM/CTE coursework and the need for getting more high school students into STEM/CTE courses. His presentation explained the Consortium's purpose and goals, asking school board's help and support in the Consortium's effort to close the STEM/CTE gap.

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) gap he referenced was the difference between supply and demand for employees who are "STEM-capable," or proficient in such areas.

Florida's high schools are not graduating enough STEM-capable students to fill the growing demand of 21st century jobs in four different career groups, Stalnaker told the board members. The four major career groups that will be looking for future workers are computer technology, mathematical sciences, engineering/surveying and the natural/physical/life sciences.

According to the 2010 Florida Council of 100 Report, "Closing the Gap," by the time current high school STEM students graduate from college, 9 out of 10 new jobs may be in STEM areas. The Florida K-12 STEM Ed Report Card 2011 estimates that the state will need to fill approximately 411,000 new STEM-related jobs by 2018.

Part of Stalnaker's mission as Coordinator for the North Florida Career Pathways Consortium is to encourage more students to go into STEM studies in preparation for future employment in one of the four growing career groups. Careers in some of these groups can command as much as \$74,000.

"That may turn some heads," said Stalnaker.

Another gap is the CTE (Career Technical Education) gap, or what used to be known as "vo-tech."

Stalnaker described CTE as "teaching a skill set for something the student can become certified in and be qualified enough to apply for a job," using as

an example, the job of certified nursing assistant – a student completing the CTE curriculum for certified nursing assistant would be able to sit for the exam and pass, becoming eligible for employment in that area.

"Not all our students want to go to college," he said. "But all our students need a job."

There are 16 "career opportunity clusters" in the CTE group, offering certifications in a variety of industries. Stalnaker highlighted several of the clusters that offered opportunities right here in Madison, including: agriculture, food and natural sciences; arts, A/V technology and communications; education and training; health science; information technology; and law, public safety, corrections and security.

Examples of specific jobs included electricians, welders, cosmetologists, equipment operators, drafting, surveying, animal sciences and agritechnology.

He also talked about a curriculum of "foundation knowledge and skills" that would make students more employable, teaching things like getting to work on time, ethical practices, problem solving and working as part of a team.

However, there are some issues, including a lack of knowledge and awareness of the full range of opportunities available through STEM/CTE, both in and outside of Madison. There is a self-perception of

CTE, leftover from "vo-tech" days, a perception that needs to be improved and brought more in line with reality. There is a lack of local role models in some career fields that could help students visualize their own goals for the future. There is also a need for more resources for recruiting and training students.

Students who want or need further training in their chosen fields have a choice of several institutions within a 90-mile radius of Madison, including North Florida Community College, Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center, Taylor Technical Institute, FSU, FAMU, Valdosta State and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College; additionally, students in Madison and Hamilton Counties can pay in-state tuition rates at Valdosta State and Wiregrass.

The Consortium's mission is to increase awareness of STEM and CTE, creating partnerships between schools and the workforce, improving the effectiveness of current STEM and CTE programs, and increasing the range of choices available to students.

The problem of resources and budgeting is another challenge. Stalnaker is working on getting some grant money and getting advocacy groups and schools to support the Consortium's goals to reach families and students, closing the STEM/CTE gap, as they prepare students to thrive in a future that is closer than they may think.

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