

Citizens Debate Presence Of Children's Home

By Ginger Jarvis
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The divisive topic of a children's home drew about 60 Madison County residents to the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries Center on Jan. 12. The session, sometimes contentious, allowed questions and comments about the possibility of a United Methodist Children's Home being located in Madison County.

Rev. Bob Laidlaw, pastor of Madison First United Methodist Church, served as emcee for the event. Laidlaw is

a member of the 35-person Board of Trustees for the UM Children's Home in Enterprise, Assisting Laidlaw with answering questions were Mike Cummings, Director of Family Philanthropy for the UMCH; Rev. John Gill, Community Development Coordinator; Mark Nelson, Development Officer; and Dr. Steve Batson of Albany, Ga., whose company carried out a feasibility study in the area in 2011.

The board had been considering adding a facility in North Florida,

and the chance to do so came in the form of a land gift from Billy and Diane Sullivan and their daughter, Beth. The Sullivans offered a 120-acre site bounded by Daylily and Dogwood roads off Dusty Miller Road in the northeast section of the county. Another family offered the funds to construct the first building on the site.

Some residents of that area, however, were strongly opposed to the home in their neighborhood. Several of them (including a person from Jacksonville and another

from central Florida) cited points such as these: (1) the possibility of widening the road into the area; (2) unsupervised children running rampant in the area and damaging property; (3) the presence of the children curtailing burns and aerial spraying; (4) property owners were not notified of the plan until surveyors came to the area; (5) increased traffic and noise; (6) taxpayer burden placed on schools; and (7) taxpayer burden for

Please see Children's Home, Page 3A

Ina Thompson Announces Candidacy For City Of Madison Commission District 2

Ina Thompson is seeking election to the Madison City Commission in March 2012. Ms. Thompson has been a resident of Madison for the past nine years, coming home to Madison to refurbish her grandparent's home and start a small downtown business. Ms. Thompson is the current owner-operator of "The Mail Room."



Ms. Thompson is a graduate of North Florida Community College and has a Bachelor of Visual Arts degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She has an active background in working with youth, both in arts and sports programs. Ms. Thompson believes that our city would benefit from programs directed towards our youth and senior citizens.

Ms. Thompson has been very active in local community affairs. She pioneered the Concerned Citizens Program and is currently President of the Greater Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Thompson also sits on the board of Crime Stoppers and has worked diligently with the Chief of Police to establish neighborhood watch programs.

Some of Ms. Thompson's goals are to actively seek ways to enhance the downtown business district, improve programming for youth, and help Madison to be a safe and exciting place to call home.

If elected Ms. Thompson will work hard to seek revitalization of our neighborhoods and will address the issues that lay within - for example, side walks for neighborhoods that currently have none. She will work with citizens to encourage and facilitate participation and address issues in our community. Ms. Thompson believes that a commissioner is elected to serve the residents in the community and therefore will make herself available to address all concerns.

Paid Political Advertisement: Paid for by Ina Thompson, Candidate for District 2 City Commission, City of Madison, Florida

Inaugural Pistol Match Slated

The inaugural Pistol Match will be sponsored by Greenville Lodge No. 28 on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The Pistol Match will be held at the Madison County Sheriff's Office Firing Range, located at 1243 NE Palmetto Street in Pinetta (Cherry Lake).

Fees to enter will be \$20 for men; \$15 for women; \$10 for youth; and \$15 for multi-divisions (rim and center-fire).

There will be very reasonably priced concession sales available.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in all divisions. For more information, please contact Bert Waldrep (850) 464-0809 or Greg Wynot at (850) 766-7861.

Brush Fire Around Old Middle School Buildings



Photo Courtesy of Pat Lightcap

Around 2 p.m. on Monday, January 16, fire units converged on the old Madison Middle School property on Hwy 360A, just south of the City of Madison. A wind driven brush fire had spread flames from the grass around the north side buildings across a field to the gym area. Madison Fire/Rescue requested and received assistance from New Home Fire/Rescue and the Florida Division of Forestry. The origin of the fire is not known at the time of this writing. As all departments finished this assignment they were dispatched to another brush fire on S.W. Moseley Hall Road and were assisted there by Sirmans Fire/Rescue. No injuries were reported.

Charlie Barfield To Coach Last Game On Jan. 19

MCCS Boys Basketball Team Will Face Live Oak For Championship

By Bryant Thigpen
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The gym will be filled with emotions as Coach Charlie Barfield will lead his team on to the court for the last time, to play for the regional championship against rival Live Oak. The game will be held at the Madison County Central School gym on Thursday, Jan. 19, beginning approximately 7:15 p.m.

Madison's Voting Machines Undergo Public Testing

Hardee Discusses Changes in Supervisor of Elections Office

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

With Madison Mayor Jim Catron and poll worker for District Two Adean Ward observing, Supervisor of Elections Tommy Hardee had Madison's voting machines set up in the Supervisor of Elections office to undergo a public testing for accuracy and reliability Thursday morning, Jan. 12.

On hand to "walk everyone through the drill" were Jay Bollenbacher and Donna Serwas of Dominion Voting, manufacturers of touch-screen voting equipment. Both are certified through the state of Florida, and were there to offer step-by-step instructions on how to boot up the machines, clear out all previous results and set them to zero before beginning the tests. Linda Hastings from the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, was also present to observe the proceedings and the results.

One of the tests involved running 500 voting cards through the machines and making sure they counted or regis-



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

(Left to right) Tommy Hardee and Freda Martin of the Madison Supervisor Elections Office prepare the voting machines for testing under the direction of Donna Serwas of Dominion Voting.

tered exactly 500 cards.

At the conclusion of the testing, everything had checked out and the state was very pleased with the policies and procedures demonstrated.

In addition to having a state official (Hastings) observ-

ing the public testing Thursday, Hardee says that he has also invited the state to send people to observe the actual voting proceedings on primary night as well as the night of the general election. "Some people don't want the state coming in, but I

say, come on and watch."

Some time after the tests were conducted, Hardee discussed in detail some of the policy and procedure changes implemented in the Madison office.

One of the rule changes involves the room where the blank ballots are stored - only red pens are allowed in that room. Any employee caught carrying any other color pen into that room will be written up the first time and fired the second time. The reason, Hardee explained, is to take away the perception that anyone, including himself, could be in there making marks on the ballots. The electronic scanners cannot detect the color red, and any marks, made on a ballot in red ink, accidental or otherwise, would not register or show up as far as the counting machines are concerned.

Another change involves the way the ballots are handled on Election Day. In the past, clerks would come into the office

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Local Weather

Wed 1/18 66/35 Showers with a possible thunderstorm in the morning, then variable clouds d.	Thu 1/19 70/39 Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Fri 1/20 75/52 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.	Sat 1/21 79/60 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 60s.
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VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS



*Emerald's
Gem Box*



Emerald Greene
Publisher

*Happy Birthday,
Brooke*



17 Years Old
January 21

*I'm Glad God
Gave You To Me*

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow shipping lane the empties the Persian Gulf into the Gulf of Oman and then, the Indian Ocean. At its narrowest point, the strait is only 34 miles wide and separates the United Arab Emirates and Oman to the south from Iran to the north. Strategically, that 34 mile gap of water is probably the most important strait in the world:

last year, 20 percent of the world's oil supplies moved by tanker through Hormuz. International shipping follows the rules laid out by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Oil tankers regularly transit the Strait, carrying petroleum from the Persian Gulf ports of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iran and the UAE to refineries in Europe and Asia. Each of these tankers is backed by high premium shipping insurance for the vessel and its precious cargo.

As the world's protector of sea lanes, the United States has a strategic interest in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open to worldwide maritime traffic. To do this, the Navy's Fifth Fleet is stationed in Oman. Before the current Iranian crisis, the fleet consisted of twenty warships anchored by the USS Stennis (CVN-74), a Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier. The Stennis has about 85 aircraft in its air wing, consisting of F-18 Hornet attack and fighter aircraft, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopters and electronic warfare aircraft. Around the Stennis is an array of warships including guided missile cruisers and submarines to protect the CVN. It is an impressive armada.

Ever since the Iranian Navy began military exercises and saber-rattling, our Navy has deployed two additional carrier battle groups centered about the USS Vinson (CVN-70) and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) to the region. The Vinson will likely replace the Stennis since their cruise is scheduled to end. Each of these battle groups carry just as much capability as the Stennis.

Meanwhile as Iranian gunboats speed around the Strait, their tin-hat admiral has announced that they might close the Strait and warned the Stennis not to return to its port in Oman. Presumably, the Obama Administration will not succumb to this threat against international maritime law.

How might the Iranians close the strait if they're so inclined? They could do so either with anti-ship missiles or mines. The no-brainer approach is to mine the strait which is a passive means until a ship hits them. Missiles, on the other hand, require targeting and launch, a much more overt act of war. Regardless, we'll allow the Iranians to make the first move, if they're so inclined, so that our response is just that. We have to call their bluff and be prepared in case it isn't.

My guess is that it is bluster and not much more. The Iranian radical Islamic government is known for saber-rattling. In the meantime, they are

National Security



Joe Boyles
Guest Columnist

Strait Of Hormuz

facing an internal crisis as someone is targeting their nuclear brain trust. Last week a speeding motorcycle attached a magnetic car bomb to the auto of one such scientist who quickly died in the resulting explosion. He's the fourth nuclear scientist to die under violent and mysterious circumstances over the past year. The Iranians are sure this action and

other similar to it are the work of Israeli/American intelligence, but who knows?

If the Iranians should decide to mine the Strait, we have a secret weapon — dolphins. It seems as if the US Navy has been training bottle-nose dolphins for years to detect mines with their sonar and photograph them. It seems that the dolphins can detect mines from hundreds of yards away. Whether or not the dolphins are trained to actually detonate the mines is not known. Of course, this revelation has animal rights groups in a tizzy.

A more reliable, long-term approach would be to build sufficient oil pipelines across Saudi Arabia to a southern port which would give oil shippers an alternative and safer route. This would give the insurance companies much needed relief as well.

It is at times like this that we're reminded that, although the Strait of Hormuz is a small body of water, more than three-quarters of the earth's surface is covered by water. Our Navy, the greatest in the world by far, is on patrol to ensure that sea lanes remain free and unimpeded. The world's economy is dependent on this capability.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Public Testing

cont from Page 1A

the day before to pick up everything they needed at the polling place the following day, including their packs of ballots.

Now, the only things they will be picking up the day before are cell phones and keys. Everything else they need, will be delivered to them by runners throughout the day.

"I trust every clerk I have absolutely," said Hardee. "But I want to take away even the perception that anything could be wrong." Even if absolutely unfounded, he explained, some citizen might form a suspicion that the clerks were taking the ballots home and marking them. Using the analogy of an offering plate at a church, Hardee added that if only one person were responsible for collecting, counting, and depositing the church money, no matter how honest and aboveboard and trustworthy the person was, there was still room for the perception that something could be amiss, even if nothing was. This is why most churches have several people handling the church offering plates and counting the money.

There will also be documentation following each set of ballots. When a runner brings a sealed package of ballots to a polling place, both the runner and the clerk must sign a form attesting that the ballots arrived at the scene with the seal unbroken, and that signature must be witnessed.

When marked ballots are gathered up to be returned to the elections office, they must be sealed in boxes, with forms signed and witnessed, and when the boxes arrive back at the elections office, another form must be signed and witnessed, attesting that the boxes arrived with the seals intact. The seals are not broken until the ballots are ready to be fed into the counting machines.

"It just takes away that perception," said Hardee, again referring the offering plate analogy. Multiple sets of eyes will witness everything, and there will be signed forms documenting every instance when the ballots are transported, for accountability.

With no room left for misperception or suspicion, it would also be one less thing for his clerks to worry about. "They don't need that," he said. "They have enough on their plates."

When it comes to absentee ballots, those who need them will still be able to get them, but they must re-do their paperwork requesting the ballots. Hardee said that the elections office will send out letters on the first of February, to every person on the absentee ballot list, explaining that they will need to redo the request forms and reaffirm their mailing addresses, so that the ballots will go to the right person.

"We want to be able to say that, as of this par-

ticular date in February, we have checked out all the absentee ballot requests on our list, and that every name and address on that list is current and valid," said Hardee.

Additionally, his office will have the recently re-done paperwork from all those requesting the ballots as documentation to back up that claim for the state.

To make sure his staff understands the new rules and regulations, he has put all of them into writing and had each of his employees read and sign off on them, stating that they have read and understand the new rules. Also, each time Hardee or the state implements a new rule or policy, that too is put into writing, and all the staff members sign off on it.

Kaomi Ghent said that she likes having the written policies and procedures available to all the staff, "so we can all be on the same page. Communication with our supervisor is important." She also added that "we now have better documentation and more forms available for accountability."

Freda Martin agreed with Ghent, saying that she particularly enjoyed the new responsibilities with some of the new tasks she had been given, especially putting together a PowerPoint presentation that Hardee now uses when he addresses clubs and civic organizations.

In speaking of the new tasks and responsibilities his staff now has, Hardee stated that "each of them have gone above and beyond" on everything he had given them to do, and that he was pleased with all their hard work.

In preparing for the election season ahead, he said that he now meets with Martin, who will be responsible for everything up to Election Day, an Ghent who will handle everything on Election Day and the day after, several times a week to plan and prepare and discuss ideas.

However, it's not only the changes in policy and procedure that has him going; he also wants to start a public education effort, where he will go into public schools, senior centers, assisted living facilities and nursing centers to talk about elections, how they work and why they are important. He has already spoken to the Association of Retired Citizens about possibly visiting their organization.

He would like to take along one of the touch screen voting machines and demonstrate how it works, holding mock elections for Mr. and Ms. Senior Center, or Mr. and Miss Fifth Grade, letting people actually use the voting machine to elect someone from among several candidates. It wouldn't cost anything, he points out, because the touch screen machine don't even use any paper, and once

the event is over, the results can be cleared and the machine reset to zero.

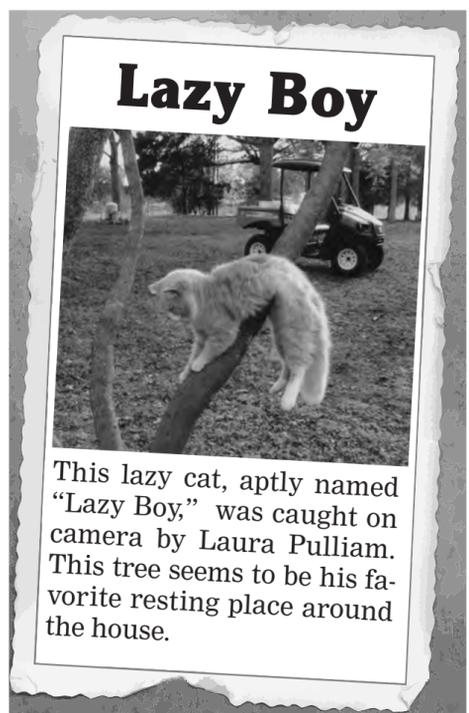
The important thing is to make people aware of the importance of voting and participating in elections.

"A lot of people have fought and died for this right to vote," he said. "And that's something we don't take lightly in this office."

Anyone who has any questions or concerns about Madison's election office is welcome to come by anytime and speak with him; he has an open-door policy. People are also welcome to contact him on his cell phone at (850) 545-7228.

In the few short week since he was appointed, Hardee has made several visits to the Bay County Supervisor of Elections Office and received over 30 hours of education and training in election procedures. As a result, he has made several changes in the Madison office, but his plans don't stop there.

"Right now, everyone says that Bay County's office is the best-run elections office in Florida," he says, "But it won't be long before they'll be saying that about Madison...come November, we're going to give the Bay County office a run for their money."



Children's Home

cont from Page 1A

infrastructure to serve the home. One resident said, "This will impact our lives and our children's lives." Another stated, "We don't want no (sic) change."

Preston Mathews of Lee stated that he and his wife were houseparents at the Enterprise campus for four years. "The children are constantly supervised. The footprint of the children does not make a big difference," he said.

Cummings assured the group that the UMCH does not yet own any property in Madison County. He added, "I have spent the day at the Barksdale Farm with the idea that we might use that location. If you know of any other property available, please let me know."

Laidlaw assured the group that the proposed home is not a juvenile-

detention facility with barbed wire and guards.

Batson said that the feasibility study by Cargill Associates centered around funding sources for the home. He interviewed people from Madison County, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville; the home would serve Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor counties.

Andy Barnes, Chief Financial Officer of the Madison County School District, explained that the children would have little impact on school funding due to state funding rules. Cummings added, "Most of these children are enrolled in Madison County schools. We will be serving children who are already here."

Questioned about the numbers of children involved, Cummings said that the first two houses would have space for 20 children and their house-

parents. Daily employees would include office personnel, therapists, and a chaplain to serve the chapel. "Our children go to church every Sunday," he explained.

Gill said that he will install a foster-parent office in Madison, where children can be placed with Christian families.

Regarding infrastructure costs, Cumming explained that the United Methodist Church pays all those costs, as any other non-profit would do. He said, "No taxpayer money is involved."

He closed by asking, "What does God want us to do to start this ministry? Remember that the King of Kings is in charge."

Even though many opposed the project and many approved it, the session ended with friends and neighbors agreeing to communicate more effectively.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Obituary Doris Loree Johnson Terry

Doris Loree Johnson Terry, age 88, died Saturday, January 14, 2012 at Madison County Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, January 16, 2012 at Beggs Funeral Home Madison Chapel with burial at Midway Baptist Cemetery. Visitation was Sunday, from 3-5 p.m. at Beggs Funeral Home, Madison Chapel.

She was born in Madison County where she lived all her life. She was a homemaker and a farmer. She was a member of Midway Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons: Richard Terry (Edith) of Madison and Bill Terry of Madison; three daughters: Faye Browning (Edwin) of Madison, Frances Terry Grotefend (David deceased) of Lake City and Ernestine Sparkman (Kip) of Perry; step-mother, Lydia Johnson of Dowling Park; one sister, Dorothy Sammons of Lake City; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to Midway Baptist Church WMU Fund, 338 SE Midway Church Rd., Lee, Florida 32059.

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

NFCC Announces Winning Students In QEP Essay Contest



Photo submitted

Left to right, Tyler Hadden, NFCC's Director of Library Services Kay Hogan, Rachael Smyth and Jessica Billy.

NFCC Students Tyler Hadden and Rachel Smith were recently awarded an Amazon Kindle for their first place winning essays about the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Campus Read selection Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser.

The essays were judged on content, grammar, spelling and interest, with the top three essays selected for presentation. Selected students Tyler Hadden, Rachael Smyth and Jessica Billy presented their essays to students, faculty and staff. A tie for first went to Hadden and Smyth, who each won an Amazon Kindle. Billy won second place and received a copy of Fast Food Nation, the movie Food, Inc., a gift certificate to the NFCC Sentinel Café and a coffee mug from the NFCC library.

For more information about NFCC's QEP contact Lynn Wyche at (850) 973-9404 or email wychel@nfcc.edu. For more information about NFCC visit www.nfcc.edu.

Madison Post Office Hours Changing

By Kristin Finney
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Starting on February 7, Madison residents will be required to wait an extra 30 minutes to be able to use the window at the Madison Post Office. Beginning on February 7 the Madison Post Office will be changing their hours from 8:30 a.m. to 9a.m. So far these are the only changes that will be being made to the Madison Post Office in 2012.

Gospel Sing At Greenville's New Macedonia Baptist Church

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing Inc.

Saturday, Jan. 21, New Macedonia Baptist Church in Greenville will be hosting an old fashioned gospel sing, featuring songs of praise from the Chapel Road Gospel Trio.

Come ready to eat; supper will be served at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall, and after an hour of great food and fellowship, sit back and listen to the gospel sounds of Brian Norris, Kristen Conaster and Jacqueline Townsend, starting at 7 p.m.

New Macedonia Baptist Church is located at 5240 SW US 221, in Greenville. Everyone is invited and admission is free. There will be a love offering taken up for the group sometime during the concert.

For more information about the sing, or directions to the church, please contact Nellie Hill at (850) 948-5421.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Becky's Dance Step Studios Celebrates The Holiday Season



Photo submitted

Posing around the pink Christmas tree at their studio party are (front row from left to right) Taniah Hatchett, Shaniyah Livingston and Abby Ratliff. (second row from left to right) Kyla Webb, Tamiyah Gallon, Sarah Mabardy, Angelina Quintana and Bailey Hackle, (third row from left to right) Savannah Curtis, Kersten Malone, Kwantianna Bell, JaShauna Florence, Jessie Roberts and Kateria Johnson.



Photo submitted

Members of the dance class for 4 year olds posing by the pink Christmas tree are: Seated from left to right, Taylor Kemp, JaMesia Ray, Kiley Malone, Lauri Thigpen, Gracelynn Newsome, Nyla Dickey and Addison Taylor. Standing from left to right are Erin Burnett, Emma Thompson, Kaitlynn Spires, Jaidyn Wesley, Tahj Dobson, Flora Mae West and Aryana Hankins.

By Kristin Finney
Greene Publishing, Inc.

When it comes to sharing the spirit of the Holidays, the dancers at Becky's Dance Step Studios are professionals. The dancers not only shared the holiday spirit with each other by having fun and memorable Christmas parties at the studio, but also by dancing for the residents at Lake Park of Madison Nursing Home.

Each year Becky's dancers participate in a class Christmas party. Each individual dance class gets their own party. The class time that the dancers would normally spend working on dances or preparing for recital, is spent eating snacks, watching *The Nutcracker Ballet* and browsing through costume books

looking for the perfect costume for the recital.

For the past few years, Becky's dancers have spread their holiday cheer outside of the studio by dancing for the residents at Lake Park of Madison. A few classes get to spend a couple of weeks working on Christmas dances to perform for the residents. The dances are often done to classic Christmas songs that the residents have heard before.

The dancers at Becky's Dance Step Studios celebrated the 2011 holiday season in the greatest way possible, by giving back to the community. Make sure to come show your support for these lovely dancers in their future performances at the Down Home Days activities, Relay for Life and their annual recital.



Photo submitted

Jared Gilbert with Kathleen Welch following his performance.



Photo submitted

After the dancers performed their Christmas dances for the residents at the Lake Park of Madison Nursing Facility on Dec. 20th, they visited with them giving out hugs and wishing each a very Merry Christmas. Emma Courtney is shown with Ruth Griffin, one of the residents who seemed to enjoy the show.



Photo submitted

Addison Taylor, a 4-year old student at Becky's Dance Step Studios, is decorating Becky's pink Christmas tree with one of the many ballerina ornaments she has collected from her dancers through the years.

The first picture shows the final pose of a tap dance to "Little Saint Nick" performed by, from left to right, Mary Kate Brooks, Kelsi Peacock, Karissa Kervin, Kayla Reeves, Jared Gilbert, Ashley Cantey, Caibre Johnson, Cali Dyal, Mackenzie Singletary, Emma Courtney and Taylor Kinsey. Not shown: Elizabeth Moore and Hope Underhill.



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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Tax Pro Cuts Ribbon As Newest Business Downtown



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

Friends and family of Donnell Davis celebrate the ribbon cutting for Tax Pro. Front row, left to right: Chamber members Bob and Gigi Auston, Chamber Director Cindy Vees, Tax Pro President and Owner Donnell Davis (holding scissors), Rev. Joseph Andrew and Betty Jean Davis. Second row, left to right: Montrelle Hawkins, Darlene Hagan, Kimberly Frazier, Tina Johnson, Alberta Davis Jones, Terrence Bonner and Loretta McCaskill.

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Tax season is right around the corner and Tax Pro, the new small business that just opened its doors at 119 E Base Street, Suite A, has cut the ribbon just in time to be of help.

Donnell Davis, president of Tax Pro and originally from Madison, attended Texas Southern University and soon started working at Tax Break in Texas.

He became interested in doing tax work after wondering how so many rich people ended up paying so little in taxes. Now he is back in Madison, working to help moderate and low-income

families and individuals – people who can least afford to overpay their taxes – helping them make the most of whatever credits or deductions they are eligible for.

“I like to try to help someone out,” he said. “Not just at tax time, but by helping you and your family decide what’s best for you during the whole tax year.”

He provides help for folks who really don’t understand the tax business that well, and admits that at one time, that included himself. He also points out that the tax law is constantly changing and evolving; each year, Congress makes more changes to the tax code. This year, they still haven’t quite finished updating the codes with all the changes they passed in the last session.

At the ribbon-cutting Thursday, Jan. 12, Cindy Vees of the Madison Chamber of Commerce was on hand with the ceremonial ribbon and giant scissors to mark the occasion and welcome Tax Pro into the business community. Davis, along with family and friends, including his pastor, Rev. Joseph Andrews of Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, celebrated with refreshments and a sheet cake decorated with the Tax Pro logo.

Tax Pro is located in the Madison Glass Doctor Building on Base Street, almost directly across from the Mansion; the office occupies one of the suites facing Base Street.

Davis invites anyone who needs sound tax advice to drop by the office, or contact him at (850) 253-2191 or (850) 673-6333. The doors are open and ready for business.

As he puts it: “You’ve tried the rest, now trust the best – Tax Pro.”



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

Tax Pro celebrates its grand opening with a grand cake, emblazoned with the business logo.

Progress Energy Florida Begins Accepting Applications For 2012 SunSense® Schools

Utility Provides Free Solar Installations To Up To 10 K-12 Schools And A University Annually

Starting, January 17, Progress Energy Florida will be accepting applications for participation in the utility’s 2012 SunSense Schools solar energy program. Through the program, Progress Energy annually provides no-cost solar installations and battery backup systems to up to 10 primary and secondary schools serving as emergency shelters. The utility also provides a larger solar installation to one post-secondary institution per year. Interested schools can submit their applications through March 20.

Each participating school will receive a 10-kilowatt (kW) solar installation with battery backup valued at approximately \$100,000, and each selected post-secondary school will receive a 100-kW solar array valued at more than \$600,000. The electricity generated by the solar arrays will help offset the participating schools’ energy use.

“Progress Energy is committed to provide clean, reliable power, both now and in the future,” said Rob Caldwell, vice president of efficiency and innovative technology for Progress Energy. “While we work to make critical resources available to a growing number of the state’s emergency shelters, we’re hopeful that some of the bright, young minds exposed to solar energy through our SunSense program will be inspired to become the innovators who determine how Florida’s electricity needs will be met for decades to come.”

Schools will be selected based on a number of factors, including their commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy education, maximum geographic distribution throughout Progress Energy’s service territory, the number of students and the school’s shelter capacity.

More information about the SunSense program and details on how schools can apply are available at progress-energy.com/sunsense.

To date, Progress Energy has installed solar arrays on and provided associated educational materials to 28 Florida schools through SunSense Schools and its predecessor programs.

The focus on schools serving as emergency shelters was part of a 2011 expansion to the utility’s SunSense program. Other program components include incentives toward residential and commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. The expanded solar offerings will be in place through 2014.

Alternative energy technologies, such as those included in the SunSense program – combined with energy efficiency and state-of-the-art plants – collectively form the balanced solution strategy Progress Energy believes is necessary to best meet its customers’ short- and long-term energy needs.

Progress Energy Florida, a subsidiary of Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), provides electricity and related services to more than 1.6 million customers in Florida. The company is headquartered in St. Petersburg, FL, and serves a territory encompassing more than 20,000 square miles including the cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as the Central Florida area surrounding Orlando. Progress Energy Florida is pursuing a balanced approach to meeting the future energy needs of the region. That balance includes increased energy-efficiency programs, investments in renewable energy technologies and a state-of-the-art power system. For more information about Progress Energy, visit progress-energy.com.

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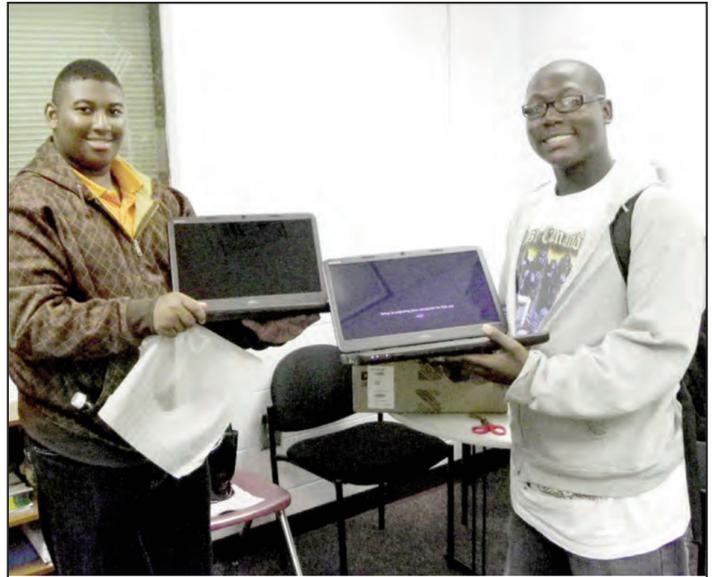
SCHOOL

Two MCHS Students Awarded Dell Laptops



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Bryant Thigpen, January 6, 2012

High School/High Tech State Director Allison Chase presented two MCHS students with new laptop computers. Pictured left to right are: Allison Chase, Jamarian Robinson, Chaddrick Johnson Mary Coody, and Jean James.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Bryant Thigpen, January 6, 2012

Jamarian Robinson (left) and Chaddrick Johnson proudly display the laptops they won by participating in a statewide essay-writing contest.

By Bryant Thigpen
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Two students at Madison County High School were awarded two new Dell laptop computers on Friday, January 6, for their efforts in a student essay contest. Students across the state of Florida who are members of the High School High Tech program were encouraged to submit an essay about how they could benefit from a computer with their education and future careers. In a joint effort by the Able Trust and the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, MCHS students Chaddrick Johnson and Jamarian Robinson were each selected as a recipient of a new Dell laptop computer.

"Chad is very dedicated to his studies and commits his energy to his education, career goals, and the MCHS High Tech Program," stated Mary Coody, director of the Madison High School/High Tech program. Johnson, who will graduate from MCHS in 2012, plans to attend Mortuary College and one day become a funeral home director. In his essay, Johnson states that hav-

ing a laptop will allow him to excel in class work, do research on colleges and learn more about the career he has chosen.

Robinson, who is also venturing into mortuary college, states that his interest in having a laptop is based on the needs of gaining training for his selected career, researching vital information about funeral directing, and to improve his current study habits.

"I have had the privilege of working with Jamarian for a few months now and find this young man to be a dedicated hard working individual," Coody said. "He is so excited about his choice of career."

Allison Chase, the state director for the High School/High Tech program, was on hand for the presentation to the students. "By giving the laptops to the students, the Able Trust and FFAST are helping to make the technology link between their education and career goals," Chase stated. "We want them to use the laptops in their studies, to explore the world of work, and of course, have fun in the process."

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SPORTS

Player Spotlight: Matt Dobson

By Kristin Finney
Greene Publishing, Inc.

In the south, football is more than just a sport; it's a way of life. Matt Dobson is the epitome of this idea. Dobson's football career began when he started playing football at the YMCA in Thomasville, Ga. when he was five years old. Then, in sixth grade, he began attending Aucilla Christian Academy and played quarterback for the Junior Varsity team that year. During my seventh and eighth grade year he was the starting Varsity quarterback at ACA. In January of his eighth grade year he transferred to North Florida Christian in Tallahassee. He was the

starting safety his freshman and sophomore years. Then in his junior and senior years he was NFC's starting quarterback.

Dobson's background in football is extensive, he explains, "My family has always been avid football fans. I began by watching football with my dad and just always wanted to play. I cannot remember ever not playing football."

Since playing at NFC, Dobson and his team have won two state championships. His freshman year he was a starting safety on the state championship team and his senior year he was the starting quarterback on the state championship team.

Dobson began practicing for the 2011 season the Monday after the last game of his junior season. They began preparing for the follow-

ing season by working out in the weight room, running and conditioning. Dobson explained, "During the summer we had our summer program which includes lifting, running and 7 on 7 passing drills as well as competitions. During the actual season we practiced everyday throughout the week, watched film, and continued to lift in the weight room."

"Playing in the two state championship games was a great experience that I will never forget. My freshman year playing in the state championship was very nerve racking and it was a new experience and something that I had no idea what to expect. My senior year I knew more what to expect and it meant more winning the state championship the second time. My senior teammates and I had worked extremely hard

for 4 years and went through a coaching change and some tough times to get where we were to win the 2nd state championship in 4 years, so it was great to see how excited everyone was when we won and see how all the hard work had paid off," said Dobson.

Being a quarterback isn't always easy. Dobson said that one of the biggest challenges of being the quarterback is, "the mental aspect of the game. As a quarterback you have to be a student of the game and know exactly what is going on at all times. Leading up to the game the quarterback must study film and understand the game plan and the assignments of all eleven players on the field. The quarterback also needs to know what the other team's defense is going to do and what their strengths and weaknesses are. One of the hardest things during practices and games is staying completely focused on your assignment every play. When you let your mind wander at all then that is when you make mistakes so you must be focused at all times and keep others around you focused."

He also spoke of the positives of being a quarterback, "The best part about being a quarterback is being an influential person in the lives of others. Younger kids and teammates look to the quarterback as someone who should be a leader and being able to be a positive role model in others lives is great. Another one of the best things about being a quarterback is having a big impact in the outcome of all the games especially in an offense like we run at NFC. The quarterback touches the ball on every play and has to make decisions on almost every play and that is great about playing quarterback."

On Dec. 21 in Sebring, Dobson got to play in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North - South all-star game. The players who were selected to play in the game were voted on by coaches. Dobson was able to play quarterback in the game. "This all-star game was a lot of fun and it was fun to play

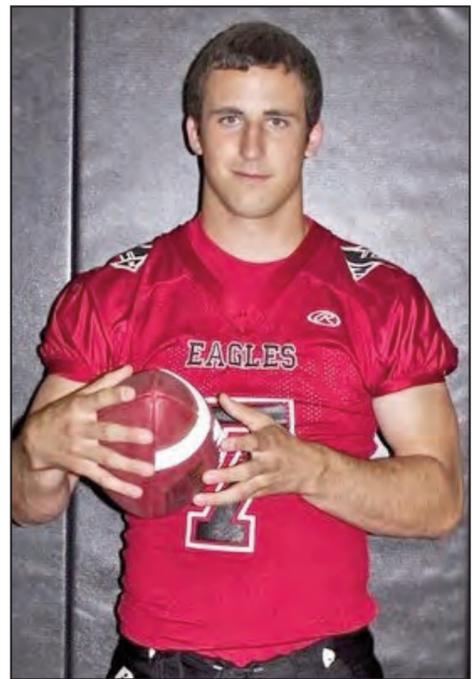


Photo submitted

For Matt Dobson, football is more than just a sport; it's a way of life.

with some great players from all over the state of Florida. We won the game 47-21 and I really enjoyed the whole experience. Meeting and getting to know many of the other guys playing in the game was enjoyable, especially some of the guys from around this area like Tevin Roundtree from Madison and some of the guys from Tallahassee," said Dobson.

"Being selected to play in this all star game was a great honor considering the many NFL hall of famers and future hall of famers who have played in this game in the past. I am thankful for all my teammates and coaches at NFC who helped me have a great year, which helped me get selected to play in this game. I was also selected to play in the Florida-Georgia border wars all-star game but will not be able to play in this game because I will be taking an official visit to a college on that weekend," he said.

Matt Dobson has been selected for multiple all big bend teams and all state teams throughout his football career. He also won the Tallahassee Quarterback Club Player of the Year his senior year. He does plan on playing football at the collegiate level and has received full scholarship offers from multiple Division I schools. He has not decided where he will at-

tend college yet, but he plans to make his decision soon.

When asked what advice he would offer to players interested in being a quarterback, he said, "My advice to anyone interested in playing quarterback would be to first make sure you have your priorities straight. Put God first in everything you do. If you serve God and work hard He will honor your hard work. Make sure you also take your academics serious because this is more important than football as well. Football is not eternal so you need to make sure you put God first, your family second, academics next, and football after that then this will help you be successful. Also if you are interested in playing quarterback you have to be a leader on the field but even more importantly off the field and in life."

Dobson is the son of Terry and Ronda Dobson who are originally from Greenville and Madison respectively, but they now reside in Aucilla. His grandparents are Ron and Martha Smoak from Madison. Loa Lee Dobson from Aucilla and the late George Dobson from Greenville. He has two sisters: Stephanie, who is married to Josh Boan, lives in Madison, and Chelsea Dobson, who lives in Tallahassee.

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Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
FULL TIME APPRENTICE LINEMAN
Tri-County Electric Cooperative has an opening for a full-time Apprentice Lineman in our Madison Office. The candidate is required to have a minimum of three years experience in power line construction and maintenance. The candidate must also have a Class A, Commercial Drivers License and live no more than 30 miles from the Madison warehouse location at 2862 West US 90. The Cooperative offers competitive salary and benefits. Tri-County is an EOE and DFWP. Please send resume and completed Tri-County Employment Application Form, which is available at any TCEC office or online at www.tcec.com, before January 31, 2012 to: Stephanie Carroll Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2862 West US 90 Madison, FL 32340.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR RENT
Commercial/Industrial Property with state highway frontage. Corner lots. Fronts both Harvey Greene Dr. & Highway 53 South. Enterprise Zone Natural gas line, 8 inch water main, access to city utilities, fire hydrant, and service from two power companies. Property has easy access to I-10, via SR 53 & SR 14. Will build to suit tenant or short or long term lease. Call Tommy Greene 850-973-4141

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HELP WANTED

CDL Class A driver needed.
Clean MVR & driving record. Dry van and reefer work. 99% in the Southeast. Part time and full time positions available. Mixed OTR and local work. Home on weekends. Great for semi-retired. (850) 973-2747. Now offering health insurance.

Local business is seeking qualified applicants for a full time administrative position. Accounting experience is preferable. Must be proficient in Microsoft programs such as Word and Excel, have good organizational and communication skills, as well as ability to multi-task with efficiency. Fax resume and references to 850-971-5540.

Senior Citizens Council of Madison County, Inc. is now accepting applications for **Nutritional Manager.** High School Diploma/GED, experience in food service, sanitation, Food Services Certificate, must be able to complete required reports, inventory, and some experience in management. Applicants need to apply in person at the Madison County Senior Citizens Council at 1161 SW Harvey Greene Dr. Madison, Florida.

Senior Citizens Council of Madison County, Inc. Position: Part-Time Van Driver
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED or previous work experience in lieu of education requirements. Must be skilled in the safe operation of vans or school bus. Must have a safe driving record, valid Florida CDL license or driver's license with a good driving record. Must be able to follow oral and written instructions. Must be able to get along with the Seniors/Public.
Duties: Pick up Seniors, medical transportation for senior, deliver hot and frozen meals. Other duties as assigned by the Transportation Supervisor and Executive Director.

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LEGALS

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

J.B.L. PARTNERS, LLP
2324 South Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31601

Plaintiff,
vs. **FORECLOSURE AND OTHER RELIEF**

ISHMO BROWN
630 SW Shelby Avenue
Madison, Florida 32340;
CHRISTINE WALKER
address unknown and believed to be deceased;
CHERRY MCCRAY
5722 Lumberjack Ln.
Tallahassee, Florida 32303;
CARLOS SOLOMON
5722 Lumberjack Ln.
Tallahassee, Florida 32303;
BRENT BLUE
5722 Lumberjack Ln.
Tallahassee, Florida 32303;
ATLANTIC CREDIT & FINANCE, INC.,
as assignee of Household Bank
2727 Franklin Road SW
Roanoke, VA 24014;

The unknown heirs, beneficiaries, spouse, children and creditors of Christine Walker, and any parties claiming by, through, under or against Christine Walker; The unknown tenants; and other unknown parties in possession, including the unknown spouse of any person in possession of the property, and if a named Defendant is deceased, the surviving spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against that Defendant, and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under any of the named or described Defendants,

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: CHRISTINE WALKER
address unknown and believed to be deceased; the unknown heirs, beneficiaries, spouse, children and creditors of Christine Walker, and any parties claiming by, through, under or against Christine Walker;

CARLOS SOLOMON
5722 Lumberjack Ln.
Tallahassee, Florida 32303, and the unknown heirs, beneficiaries, spouse, children and creditors of Carlos Solomon, and any parties claiming by, through, under or against Carlos Solomon;

BRENT BLUE
5722 Lumberjack Ln.
Tallahassee, Florida 32303, and The unknown heirs, beneficiaries, spouse, children and creditors of Brent Blue, and any parties claiming by, through, under or against Brent Blue;

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Madison County, Florida:

Begin at the Southeast corner of Lot No. 18 of Inglis Addition to the Town of Madison, (now the City of Madison), Florida, thence run South 67 feet, thence run West 110 feet, thence run North 67 feet, thence run East 110 feet to the Point of Beginning.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Clay A. Schmitker, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Drawer 652, Madison, Florida 32340, on or before February 13, 2012, 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 demanded in the Complaint.

Dated January 4, 2012.
Tim Sanders, CLERK OF COURT BY: /s/ Ramona Dickinson Deputy Clerk

FLORIDA PRESS SERVICES, INC. STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED PROGRAM

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR 1/16/2012 THROUGH 1/22/2012

Auctions
BANKRUPTCY AUCTION. CASE#3:09-BK-35259. 2 Adjacent Acreage Tracts, Pigeon Forge, TN. 82 Acres & 43.9 Acres. Sat., Jan. 21, 10:30 AM. (800)4-FURROW. TN Lic. #62

FORECLOSURE AUCTION. 35 Residential Lots, Mountain Shadows Resort, Gatlinburg, TN near Great Smoky Mtns. Wed., Jan. 25, 12:00 Noon. WWW.FURROW.COM (800) 4-FURROW. TN Lic. #62

Education
ALLIED HEALTH career training- Attend college 100% online. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call (800) 481-9409 www.CenturaOnline.com

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Miscellaneous
EARN COLLEGE DEGREE ONLINE. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call (877) 206-5165 www.CenturaOnline.com

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Mobile Home with land, ready to move in, great value. Approx 1500 sq ft, 3Br 2Ba serious offers only, no renters. Call (850) 308-6473.

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Heat & Air JOBS - Ready to work? 3 week accelerated program. Hands on environment. Nationwide certifications and Local Job Placement Assistance! (877) 359-1690.

Madison County Memorial Hospital
Now Hiring:
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Have "Heart In The Kitchen" To Develop Plan For Lowering Cholesterol

(NAPS)—When restaurateur, vineyard owner and "MasterChef" judge Joe Bastianich was diagnosed with high cholesterol, his doctor told him he needed to lower it. "At age 35, I was facing some pretty significant health issues, being overweight and having high cholesterol among them," Bastianich's professional and personal lives were heavily focused on food, and with his busy career, he wasn't as active as he needed to be.

"After that day in my doctor's office, I realized I was going to have to make some changes." He worked with his doctor to develop a personal "battle plan" of diet and exercise to improve his health.

Bastianich's Transformation
Bastianich found the process to be slow but gratifying. "I had to stop looking at food as a reward, and start thinking of it as fuel," he says. "But I was still a restaurateur, and I still had the passion I've always had for food and flavor. I needed to integrate those things into my new lifestyle."

While Bastianich's professional life revolved around the beauty of a Mediterranean diet, he also knew that "Italian" could still apply to healthy eating. He worked

on adding more produce to his diet and consuming less saturated fats and animal products, as well as eating smaller, more sensible portions.

"I also started walking, which gradually turned into running," says Bastianich. "Eventually, I ran a 5K, a 10K and then a marathon. Five years into this lifestyle, I've lost 50 pounds and my cholesterol is where it should be." But Bastianich wants to remind people they don't have to run marathons—or even be runners—to be active. He recommends people talk with their doctor about finding an activity that is right for them.

Heart in the Kitchen
Bastianich has teamed up with Pfizer on "Heart in the Kitchen," a program that provides support in managing cholesterol. "My transformation from a sedentary lifestyle to a more active one has inspired me to help others."

Bastianich shares his favorite low-cholesterol recipes on www.HeartintheKitchen.com. There's also information about cholesterol management and a prescription treatment option from Pfizer. "I would encourage people to check out the website and try some of the recipes I've created. Also, get your cholesterol checked, and if need be, work with your doctor to get it to a healthy level."

A Medical Opinion
More than one in five adults over the age of 20 have high cholesterol, according to Dr. Dan Wilson, a cardiology specialist and nephrologist for Pfizer. "High cholesterol is a

major risk factor for heart attack and stroke, but it's a modifiable risk factor—there are ways to help manage it. The first steps should be to make meaningful changes in your diet and to increase your physical activity, which 'Heart in the Kitchen' can help you achieve," says Wilson. "However, for many, a cholesterol-lowering medicine may also be necessary."

Low-Cholesterol Recipes

For Joe Bastianich's low-cholesterol recipes and information about a prescription cholesterol-lowering treatment, go to www.HeartintheKitchen.com.

The "Heart in the Kitchen" program is sponsored by Pfizer. Joe Bastianich is a paid spokesperson.

Ask The Dentist



Question: What causes bad breath and what can I do about it?

Answer: I get this question all the time. There are many causes of bad breath. From diseases such as diabetes to dental abscesses. I can tell you from experience that 90% of the time the place to start looking is infection. Many people have bad breath due to undiagnosed and untreated periodontal or gum disease. Gum disease is a type of uncontrolled infection of the gums. The bacteria grow and multiply uncontrolled under the gums. They give off volatile sulfur gases which everyone in the room knows as bad breath. Some of the worst breath comes from an infection with the bacteria, *Enterococcus faecalis*. An infection with this bacterium does not even need to be cultured to identify the causing organism. The odor has a classic odor which makes it easy to identify.

Your Dentist & Hygienist have many treatment modalities which will help. Treatment such as cleanings, oral hygiene methods, and prescriptions will all help. Don't feel embarrassed anymore by your breath.

Roderick K Shaw III, DMD, MAGD
Master of the Academy of General Dentistry
President Florida Academy of General Dentistry

Let us feature your questions. Contact us at (850) 250-5964 or rkshaw@drrodshaw.com
Ask the Dentist is devoted to answering your questions about the Art and Science of Dentistry.

South Georgia Medical Center Offers Free Cervical Cancer Screening

Every hour another woman is diagnosed or dies from cervical cancer. These cancers are preventable and raising awareness can save many lives. This year in the United States, over 12,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed. As a way to raise awareness and get women tested, South Georgia Medical Center will be offering a free Cervical Cancer Screening Thursday, January 19th, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pearlman Cancer Center. Women who have had a Pap test within the past three years or a hysterectomy are not eligible for the free screening. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (229) 333-1074 or go to www.sgmc.org.

Cervical cancer is

treatable. If it is detected early, it is nearly 100% curable.

The key to preventing deaths from cervical cancer is getting a regular Pap test. The Pap test looks for changes in the cervix that might lead to cancer. If cancer does occur, the Pap test helps to find it early when it is easier to treat.

Cervical Cancer is the only cancer that is known to be caused by a common virus, the human papillomavirus or HPV. The Food and Drug Administration has approved the Gardasil vaccine which is administered in a series of three injections and prevents against two strains of HPV which are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers. Females between the ages of 9-26 are recommended to get the vaccine.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends a regular Pap test and speculum exam for women, regardless of immunization status, beginning at age 21 or three years after the onset of sexual activity, whichever occurs first. Also, according to the ACS, cervical cancer tends to occur in midlife. Half of women diagnosed with this cancer are between the ages of 35 and 55. It rarely occurs in women younger than 20. Although cervical cancer does affect young women, many older women do not realize that the risk of developing cervical cancer is still present as they age. For additional information on cervical cancer visit The American Cancer Society's website at www.cancer.org.

FREE Cervical Cancer Screening

Empowering our Community. Improving Health.



January 19
5pm – 8pm
Pearlman Cancer Center

SGMC+

*To register, visit sgmc.org and click on "Classes & Events" or call 229.333.1074

Women who have had a Pap Smear within the past three years are not eligible.

*Appointments are required

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