

Progress Energy Madison Operation Center Opens On Time, Under Budget



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Kristin Finney, Feb. 7, 2012

Construction of a new Madison Operation Center for Progress Energy Florida is complete. The Operation Center, located on the east side of the city of Madison on Highway 98, replaces and upgrades an existing facility. It provides a base for Progress Energy line crews and serves as a materials storage area. Construction of the center began in October 2011. The site will become fully operational later this month.

Many local subcontractors help to build the center. Vendors from Madison, Leon, Taylor, Gadsden,

Jefferson, Suwannee and Lowndes counties were awarded subcontracts for work such as surveying, site preparation, electrical, flooring, fencing, concrete, plumbing, sanitation and finishing, totaling more than \$500,000 in wages for the local economy.

"The Greater Madison County Chamber of Commerce is grateful for the continued partnership we have with Progress Energy," said Cindy Payne-Vees, director, Madison County Chamber of Commerce. "Their re-investment in our county by utilizing local contractors for this construction pro-

ject proves their commitment to rural communities such as ours. We are privileged to have them as part of our county."

Planning for the project began in 2010, when Progress Energy's Supplier Diversity & Business Development business unit began working with the Florida A & M University Small Business Development Center. Pinnacle Construction Support Group (Pinnacle/CSG), a minority owned construction management firm based in Tallahassee, was awarded

Please see Progress Energy, Page 3A

Send Your Loves Lines In

Valentine's Day is a day of love.

Tell your sweetheart or a family member how much you love them. For \$5 each, you can insert your love lines into the newspaper.

See the form on page 4A to fill out your love lines and send them in to P.O. Drawer 772, Madison, FL 32341 or bring it in to our office located at 1695 South Highway 53 in Madison.

Remember, \$5 is an inexpensive way to show your loved ones you really care.

Jeff And Sheri Easter To Make First-Ever Appearance In Madison



Gaither Homecoming Artists Jeff and Sheri Easter will be making their first-ever appearance in Madison on Friday, February 10, at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, at 7 p.m. Also appearing with Jeff and Sheri Easter will be Chapel Road of Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

For Jeff and Sheri, gospel music is genetically programmed into their DNA. As members of acclaimed musical families—Jeff's father is one of the Easter Brothers and Sheri's mother is a member of the Lewis Family—they grew up surrounded by the sound of people praising God through their musical gifts.

In August of 1984, both were at the Albert E. Brumley Sundown to Sunup Gospel Singing in Arkansas. Jeff, who was playing bass for the Singing Americans at the time, took the opportunity to reintroduce himself to Sheri's mother, Polly. They had met on a previous occasion. Polly introduced Jeff to Sheri and the two were married ten months later.

They traveled and performed as part of The Lewis Family for several years. But in 1988 they decided it was time to strike out on their own, and they haven't looked back since.

Please see Easter, Page 3A

JA Hosts "Starry Night" Father-Daughter Dance

By Kristin Finney
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Junior Auxiliary of Madison County would like to cordially invite all of the fathers and daughters in Madison to join them for their fourth annual Father-Daughter Dance. This year's dance will be called Starry Night. The dance will be on February 11, from 6-8 p.m.

The event will be held at the Madison Women's Club. Tickets are \$10 per father, and he

Please see Dance, Page 3A

Woman Injured In Wreck

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A Greenville woman was slightly injured in an accident on Monday afternoon, Feb. 6.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Sandra Ebberson, 66, was traveling west on Captain Buie Road. For unknown reasons, she failed to stop her 2008 Nissan at the intersection of Captain Blue and Rocky Ford Roads.

The Nissan continued west, crossing both travel lanes of Rocky Ford Road.

The car entered the west shoulder striking an embankment, fence and fence post with the front of the vehicle.

The car came to a final rest, facing west on top of the embankment.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office assisted at the scene.

Susanne Griffin Wins Teacher Of The Year



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, Feb. 2, 2012

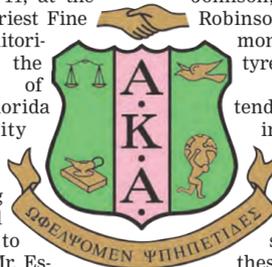
Ronnie Moore, left, is pictured with Susanne Griffin, who won this year's Madison County Teacher of the Year Award at the Golden Apple Banquet, sponsored by the Madison County Foundation for Excellence in Education on Thursday, Feb. 2. Please see the Wednesday, Feb. 15 edition of The Madison County Carrier for full coverage of the event.

AKA To Present Mr. Esquire 2012

The Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will sponsor Mr. Esquire 2012 on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Johnson, Darrion Van H. Priest Fine Arts Auditorium on the campus of North Florida Community College at 6 p.m.

Young men will compete to become Mr. Esquire. Over the past month, they have been mentored in etiquette, modeling and public speaking.

The Madison local Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha selected this project to improve young black males by encouraging them to stay in school and graduate. Educational success is one of our goals. The contestants are Ahmad Powell, Bradyle Neal, Ja'Bryan Butler, Marcus Straughter, Taronn Robinson and Sa-monty McIntyre.



We extend a special invitation to all persons in Madison County to support these young men. Adult tickets are \$5 and students \$3. The money raised will support scholarships, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, United Way and other charities in the community.

The chairpersons are Cora Wyche and Carolyn Ray. Emily Dick-ey is the sorority's president.

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Local Weather

Wed 2/8	77/46		Thu 2/9	71/45		Fri 2/10	72/47		Sat 2/11	65/40	
Partly cloudy skies. High 77F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.			Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.			Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.			Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.		

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

Letters To The Editor

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

Columnist Should Fire Her Research Assistant

If Claudia Anderson, Vice President, Madison County Republican Club, is paying anyone to do research for her, she needs to fire them. In her article that ran in the Jan. 27, 2012 edition, she said, "Jane Fonda, traitor whose actions caused the torture and death of many patriots, is being honored by Pres. Obama. 100 Years of Great Women?" The 100 Years of Great Women was a Barbara Walters special that aired on ABC in April 1999.

That's 10 years before Obama became president and any connection to him is either a figment of her overactive imagination or an outright lie. Once again we're into the "stupid season" where seemingly intelligent people make the most idiotic claims. The same claim circulated in 2009 and was just as idiotic back then.

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Lowest FCAT Scores

Of course we should be concerned that students are not learning enough to become supportive citizens. The future of our community, state and nation is affected. Self interest brings the questions: 1) Why so little academic achievement? 2) What's to be done?

Academic achievement begins with parents, the first and best teachers. Failing to understand or to accept this fact puts all responsibility on one teacher working with dozens of children. Some parents are not educators, either by lack of time or lack of interest. Uneducated parents can do their part. Discipline in class, doing homework, and getting enough sleep help a child get what the teachers offer.

What is to be done challenges everyone who cares about our country's future. Statistics show that learning to read by Grade 3 is key to completing high school. If we had a health epidemic here,

most of us help cure it. We march for cancer, collect for heart disease, tax ourselves for a hospital because we care.

We should care about an epidemic of ignorance. . . care enough to commit to making certain each Madison County child reads by grade 3. Whatever that takes is what we should do. School leaders can devise best use of volunteers willing to become teachers of reading. Training for parents of poor performing students is better than parent sessions with a school counselor. Provide it.

This is not a school problem nor a school board problem. It's a community problem, a county commission problem, a church problem, a civic organization problem, an individual problem for all of us in good health with time to spare. County schools' poor academic achievement is OUR problem and OUR challenge.

Marianne Green

Last week, Floridians went to the polls to select their preference for the Republican nomination to face off this fall against President Obama. While Madison Republicans favored former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the state overwhelmingly voted to support former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney for the nomination. The other two candidates still in the race, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul were relegated to also-ran status.

I cast my vote for Mitt Romney. Let me explain why and see if it makes any sense to you.

To my way of thinking, the two most vexing problems that our nation faces is a moribund economy (2011 GDP grew at an anemic 1.7 percent) and out-of-control spending by power-drunk politicians. This has led to 12 million unemployed or under employed Americans and a debt crisis that threatens to swamp our economy. As I look at the field of presidential candidates, I'm looking for someone who is equipped to provide the leadership to address this twin-headed monster.

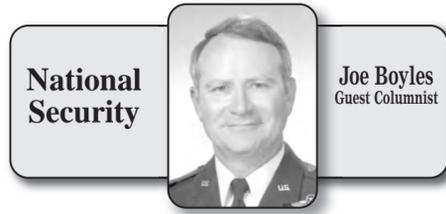
It certainly isn't Barack Obama; he's a major contributor to the problem — hardly the solution. The Washington political elites like Gingrich and Santorum haven't had the economic and business experience to prove they are equipped to meet the challenge. I would say the same about Paul and Bachman although they seem to recognize the problem more than most. While Huntsman never caught fire, Perry seemed to be lost in the wilderness of the national campaign. At one point, I had some hope for Herman Cain but other things got in the way and derailed his campaign. Gary Johnson and Tim Pawlenty are forgotten memories.

By process of elimination, I'm down to my last straw or in this case, candidate. That would be Mitt Romney. What is to like and what is not?

I like the idea that he comes from a business background. As the CEO of Bain Capital, Romney spent nearly two decades managing one of our nations' largest private venture capital firms. Bain looked at both existing businesses and new ventures for potential to invest their capital. These were businesses that required new management or better organization or a boost to turn their fortunes around. Bain had an amazing track record during Romney's tenure of picking winners and losers.

In the late 1990s as Salt Lake City was preparing to host the Winter Olympic Games, they faced a royal mess. The Mormons selected one of their own, Mitt Romney, to sort through the wreckage and put things right. He did an amazing job in less than two years and the games were a roaring success. He's a problem solver.

In 2002, he was elected governor of liberal



Mitt vs. Newt

Massachusetts and served one term. He did a lot of things right in a difficult political environment. Late in his single term, he signed into law a universal health care law for Massachusetts which has been dubbed Romneycare, the model for our 2011 national Obamacare law. Romneycare is his biggest stumbling block, in my opinion, and he's going to

have to do a better job of explaining it and his vision of healthcare in order to draw distinction between his and Obama's ideas.

Many southerners are naturally suspicious of anyone from Massachusetts. I share your mistrust. My ancestors arrived on the shores of the Bay State in 1638 and left two generations later. This was the same time when the good citizens of Salem were burning witches. As best we can tell, this historical footnote is merely a coincidence, but you never know. If I were to return to Taxachusetts today, I would be a fish-out-of-water. As far as lingering charges of witchcraft are concerned, the statute of limitations has passed — I think.

Before I close this column, let me say something about Newt Gingrich. I first met him in 1983 when he spoke to my class at the Air Command and Staff College. We were very impressed with the young congressman, but before long, I learned that he had a reputation as a political "bomb thrower." Good revolutionaries like Newt do not equate to good governance. History tells us that some of the great American revolutionaries like Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams disappeared in its aftermath.

Three and a half years ago as we came to the 2008 general election, I realized that Republicans had made a fatal error. We nominated a national security candidate, John McCain, who knew next to zero about economic matters. But following the failure of Lehman Brothers on September 17th, the economy was the only thing that really mattered. With his background, Mitt Romney could have explained the issue and addressed the problem in the final six weeks of the campaign, but McCain was lost. I don't know that Romney could have beaten Obama that year, but he certainly was better equipped to oppose him considering the primary issue at hand.

That was then and this is now. The economy is still the key issue although not in crisis stage like it was in late 2008. Obama's policies, buoyed by tired Keynesian economics, have failed miserably. Obama's economic policies are akin to a runner with one foot nailed to the surface, simply running in circles. Mitt Romney can explain this and show that, with the proper free-market approach, the runner can be liberated to run a good race. He's the best man, in my opinion, available now to lead our nation and the world out of economic quagmire.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Toby



Toby Finney, joins his mom (Sherry Finney), dad (Doug Finney) and sister, (Kristin Finney) at a drive-in theater in north Georgia.

Love, Honor & Cherish



The parents of Jason Rinehart would like to announce the wedding of their son to Michelle Richards. Michelle is the daughter of Scott and Tammy Allen of Charleston, West Virginia. She is a 2006 graduate of West Virginia University Tech., with a degree in dental hygiene. He is a 2000 graduate of Lake City Community College with a degree in Forestry. The wedding will take place on April 14, 2012 in Jacksonville, Florida with a reception following the ceremony. After honeymooning in St. Lucia, the couple plans to reside in Orange Park, Florida.

Easter

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Also joining Jeff & Sheri on the road is their son, Madison, who plays electric guitar for the group and their daughter, Morgan, who joins them on occasion for a special solo when she's not helping with the newest addition to the Easter family, Maura Grace. Greg and Charlotte Ritchie have been performing with Jeff & Sheri since 1994 and 1996, respectively. Their son, Landon, is a regular highlight of Jeff & Sheri's program, offering a little comedy with help from Jeff.

Jeff & Sheri have been nominated for numerous Dove Awards and won three. They've also received a Grammy nomination, and Sheri has been named the Singing News Favorite Alto ten times and the Singing News Female Vocalist four times. Jeff & Sheri's wall of awards also include three Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music Association Awards, two International Country Gospel Music Association, nine Voice Awards for Female Artist, five Voice Awards for Song/Single of the Year, two Voice Awards for Christian Country Group, four SGM Fan Fair/USGN awards, five SGN Scoops Diamond Awards, four Hearts Aflame Awards, and three Cash Box awards. They have also participated in the Gaither Homecoming Video Series since 1993, which has sold over 15 million units.

Apart from their frequent appearances on the Gaither Homecoming tour and videos, Jeff & Sheri have a fairly heavy touring schedule of their own. "When we perform, we want people to leave a little different than when they came in," Sheri explains. "We want them to have a great time smiling, laughing, crying and healing. We want them to know God loves them and that He is in control."

Jeff & Sheri Easter's latest release, Life is Great And Gettin' Better, embraces the sentiment by which this energetic southern gospel couple lives. Their new project is a viable, precision produced recording that musically gratifies even the most demanding enthusiast's tastes — while staying true to the bluegrass/progressive country/bluesy style that has become distinctly their own.

The concert will be held inside the auditorium at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park. For more information, please call (850) 464-0114.

Dance

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MADISON COUNTY CARRIER, P.O. Drawer 772, Madison, FL 32341-0772.
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Progress Energy

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the contract.

Through coordination with Progress Energy, Pinnacle conducted a vendor fair in Madison in September 2011 to recruit local subcontractors in the economically-challenged area in North Florida to help complete the project. The Madison Operation Center building was completed on schedule and under the initial budget.

"Progress Energy is pleased that this project offered a boost to the local economy" said Bobby Pickels, Progress Energy Community Relations Manager. "In addition, we've established relationships with many local contractors and businesses."

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, Fla., 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 electricity system. For more information about Progress Energy, visit <http://www.progress-energy.com/>.

Media contact: Progress Energy Florida 24-hour media line (866) 520-6397

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Drew "Pete" Talmadge Merritt, Sr.

Drew "Pete" Talmadge Merritt, Sr. passed away in Ocala on Feb. 2, 2012.

He was born in Lee on Aug. 22, 1932 and was a retired lineman, who worked all over the United States.

His hobbies included winning at cards, restoring old tractors and fishing. Drew also loved watching westerns and listening to bluegrass music.

He is survived by his children, Deborah Merritt Long, Robert Merritt, Vicky Gomar, Janie Laird, Derrick Bickford and Drusilla Morgan; his siblings, Roy Merritt, Evelyn Sapp, Hazel Latner, Gene Merritt, Barbara Durden and Betty Reames; 28 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ben Brevan and Janie Merritt; and siblings, Ben Merritt, Helen Lee, Lois Southall, June Kinsey and Bonnie Lyon; and a son, Drew Merritt, Jr.

Services will be held at Beggs Funeral Home in Madison on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 2 p.m. There will be a viewing held prior to the service, starting at noon for family and 1 p.m. for friends. Graveside service to follow at Macedonia Cemetery, Madison.

Iva Juanita Stephens

Iva Juanita Stephens, 86, passed away at home on February 3, 2012 after a long illness. She moved to Callahan after her beloved husband of 47 years, Charlie, passed away.

She is survived by her only child, Penny Rau, and her husband, Bobby Rau; three grandchildren, Jimmy (Denise) Hall, Scott Hall and Christopher (Wanda) Rau; six great-grandchildren, Micha, Anne, Chloe, Aubriel, Nick and Micaela; two sisters, Edith Townsend and Velma McRae; two brothers, Alec Campbell and Edward Campbell; many nieces and nephews; good friends; and a wonderful church family at Faith Baptist Church in Jacksonville where she attended faithfully as long as she was able. All loved her and will miss her, but are assured she is now with the Lord.

Beggs Funeral Home, Madison, will arrange the funeral and burial. Services will be at Hickory Grove Methodist Church on February 11, 2012 at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at the family cemetery, Campbell-Harmony Cemetery.

Memorials in her name may be directed to Northeast Florida Community Hospice.

In Memoriam

Orenthea James (O.J.) Akins



December 8, 1978 - February 5, 2004

In my heart your memory lingers, always tender, fond and true. There's not a day, dear OJ, that we do not think of you.

His memory is as dear today, as in the hour he passed away. He had a nature you could not help loving, and a heart that was purer than gold, and to those who knew him and loved him, his memory will never grow cold.

Nadine, Wilburt, Vida, Arna, Stephanie, and Caleb

David Dukes To Speak At Black History Program At Damascus

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Damascus Baptist Church will host a countywide Black History program on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. at the church, located at the corner of MLK Drive and Smith Streets.

The speaker for the event will be David Dukes, a community activist and children and human rights advocate and author, who is known as Madison's own MLK.

The topic of the event will be "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and Am I My Brother's Keeper?" For more information, please call (786) 493-4693.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Nestle Waters Presents Check to Lee Elementary School

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Loud cheers and squeals of delight went up from the assembled children in the cafeteria as Lee Elementary Principal Robin Hill delivered her "Really Big Announcement" that Nestle Waters was donating \$17,000 to the school for new playground equipment. Onstage with Hill were Madison County School Superintendent Lou Miller and several representatives from the Nestle Waters North America Madison Bottling Plant.

Rob Fisher, Nestle Waters Plant Manager, then spoke, telling the excited children how happy he was to be sharing such exciting news with them, and additionally, when playground equipment arrived, Nestle employees would come to the school to help set it up.

The donation went right along with Nestle's product, Fisher told the children; bottled water was a healthy drink and the new playground equipment would promote healthy exercise while the children were having fun.

Principal Hill then added, to the accompaniment of more excited cheers, that the equipment had been ordered and would arrive soon. As she described each kind of equipment, more and louder cheers erupted: "Something to climb on...something to spin on...and something to slide across. Then you have to do your part. Do your work so you can go to P.E. class and recess and enjoy all the new playground equipment."

"Nestle Waters is proud to support our local schools, which help the children of many of our plant employees to learn and succeed in the classroom," Fisher said in a prepared statement. "We thank the teachers and staff of Lee Elementary School for providing our children with a foundation of success."

"Our students are very important to us and part of their development is healthy and safe daily exercise," said Hill. "With this donation from Nestle Waters, we will



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, January 26, 2012

Nestle Waters presents Lee Elementary School with the \$17,000 check for the playground equipment. Left to right are Lee Elementary Principal Robin Hill and Nestle Waters representatives John Collins, Scott Sweat, Cody Douglas and Mike Vullo.

be able to provide our students with activity on playground equipment customized just for them."

At the end of the brief program, a lot of happy, excited children filed out of the cafeteria and headed home for the day.

Lonnie Roberson Retires From Madison Senior Center

Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

After 21 years as a nutrition assistant at the Madison Senior Center, Lonnie Roberson is retiring for good. Before she came to the Madison Senior Center, she had previously retired after nearly 20 years with the hospital, where she worked in housekeeping.

After more than four decades of fulltime work, she decided, "It was time to rest. I've been working so long."

However, even at 81 years of age, it was not a decision made lightly. After 21 years of cooking meals at the Center, she came to regard the seniors and staff as family.

"Yes, I'm going to miss the Center real bad," she said.

She was the first one who started cooking for the Center when it opened in 1990. Since then, she has made countless meals for as many as 70 or 80 people a day. In addition to lunch for the seniors who came to the Madison Center, she also made meals that were transported to senior facilities in Greenville and Lee.

Born and raised in neighboring Jefferson County, she learned her love of cooking from her mother, and brought that love to the Center, where the seniors who gather there for lunch have enjoyed many a hot and savory meal prepared by her. Some of her favorite dishes to make were collard

greens, peas, and sweet potatoes.

The Center staff members organized an ice-cream cake lunch where everyone gathered to say goodbye and wish her well in her retirement. Several people brought gifts, and Madison Senior Center Director Rosa Richardson presented her with a plaque in honor of her many years of service. But when asked if she would like to say a few words, Roberson shook her head. "I don't want to cry," she said.

Roberson moved to Madison when she married, and raised six children. She has numerous grandchildren, ranging in age from three months to 38 years, but isn't quite sure how many there are. "My goodness, I couldn't count them all," she said. She has 12 great-grandchildren.

Her family now lives mostly around Madison and Jefferson Counties. A few live in Albany Ga., and some live in South Florida.

She isn't quite sure what she'd like to do now that she has retired, but she does love to sew, another skill learned from her mother. She has made several quilts over the years, and might do some more of that. Maybe plant a little garden. Definitely spend more time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

But one thing there is no doubt about: "I'm going to come back up here (to the Center) and visit every chance I get," she said.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, January 27, 2012

Madison Senior Center Director Rosa Richardson presents a plaque in appreciation for Lonnie Roberson's 21 years of work as a Nutrition Assistant.



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386-719-0421.
\$68,000.

Children's Dresses...

Size 3 - white long dress, worn as flower girl dress, sequin/beadwork all on bodice, sequin/beadwork/appliques on bottom, built-in crinoline. - \$50

Size 4 - off white dress, worn as flower girl dress, lace work around bodice, pretty lace work at bottom, cap sleeves - \$25

Size 7-8 - off white dress, worn as a flower girl dress, overlay of lace over entire dress, probably knee to calf length - \$25

Size 8 - white, long dress, lace around neck with decorative bodice - \$25

Size 16 - white long pageant gown, cap sleeves, white sequin work across entire bodice and sleeves, buttons around neck with circular cut-out on back, beautiful gown - \$100

Teen dresses.....

Size 14 (child's size 14 but dress is for a teen division approximately 13-15) - GORGEOUS lime green dress, strapless but with spaghetti straps that criss cross across the back, sequins spotted across the entire gown, built-in crinoline - absolutely gorgeous. - \$300 (paid over \$500 for it) Call 850-973-3497 and leave message.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653. NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer.

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF CASE NO.: 2011-113-CP
DIMPLE LENORA HUFF-DRIGGERS,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of DIMPLE LENORA HUFF-DRIGGERS, deceased, Case Number 2011-113-CP pending in the Circuit Court for Madison County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 125 SW Range Avenue, Madison, Florida 32340. The name and address 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 the decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice to Creditors is February 8, 2012.

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Personal Representative:
/s/ Monica Taihl /s/ DORIS HARRIS
Monica Taihl DORIS HARRIS
FL BAR 035058 406 NE Daylily Avenue
P.O. Box 836 Madison, Florida 32340
125 NE Range Avenue
Madison, FL 32340
(850) 973-1477

NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MADISON COUNTY ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY HARDSHIP EXCEPTION TO THE COUNTY'S MORATORIUM ON INTERNET CAFE AND SIMILAR BUSINESSES

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Florida, shall hold a public hearing to consider an application for a hardship exception to Madison County Ordinance No. 2011-200. This ordinance imposed a moratorium on new Internet Café and similar business in the unincorporated area of the County, but allows the Board of County Commissioners to authorize an exception to the moratorium when it finds that the moratorium would impose an extraordinary hardship on an applicant.

APPLICANT: Jeffrey and Debra Knox

PLACE FOR WHICH THE EXCEPTION IS REQUESTED: Cherry Lake General Store
8037 N. SR 53
Madison, Florida 32340

DATE OF HEARING: February 15, 2012

TIME OF HEARING: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE OF HEARING: The Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room
Room No. 107
Madison County Courthouse Annex
229 S.W. Pinckney Street
Madison, Florida 32340

All interested parties may appear at the above hearing and be heard with respect to the application. The application and the above ordinance may be inspected by the public during regular business hours at the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Madison County, Florida, in the Madison County Courthouse, Madison, Florida.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in such meeting, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Tim Sanders, Clerk of Court, at Post Office Box 237, Madison, Florida 32341, telephone:(850) 973-1500, at least 3 working days prior to the meeting date; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

DATED on February 3, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: /s/ Tim Sanders
Tim Sanders,
Clerk

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That Pursuant to a WRIT OF EXECUTION issued in the County Court of Madison County, Florida, on the 31st day of January, 2012 in the cause wherein SANDRA L. BACOT, f/k/a SANDRA L. GRASSANO, Plaintiff, vs. STEVE E. HARMON, Defendant, being Case No. 2011-47-CC in said Court.

I, Benjamin J. Stewart, as Sheriff of Madison County, Florida, have levied upon the Defendant, STEVE E. HARMON'S, one-half (1/2) undivided interest as a tenant in common in the following described real property, to wit:

All that part of Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Block "A", JOHNSTON ADDITION to the Town of Lee, Florida, as per the plat recorded in Deed Book 30, Page 568, of the Public Records of Madison County, Florida, lying South of the South right-of-way line of U.S. 90.

ALSO:
212 (two hundred twelve) feet, more or less, along the South property line of Parcel 1092, 20 (twenty) feet in width of said Johnston Street, Lee, Florida.
LESS AND EXCEPT:
A parcel of land lying in Block "A" of Johnson's (a/k/a Johnston's) Subdivision in Town of Lee, Madison County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows: commence at the Northeast corner of Lot 2; thence South 82 degrees 53 minutes 46 seconds West, a distance of 48.64 feet to the Point of Beginning, from said Point of Beginning; thence South 53 degrees 42 minutes 11 seconds West to the Northeastly right of way of National Highway, a distance of 43.24 feet; thence North 39 degrees 35 minutes 53 seconds West along said right of way, a distance of 25.00 feet; thence leaving said right of way run North 82 degrees 53 minutes 46 seconds East, a distance of 51.18 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.01 acres, more or less. (This property deeded from the Defendant and the Plaintiff via the Warranty Deed recorded in OR Book 947, Page 202).
Parcel Id. No. 00-00-00-1092-000-000

and on the 13th day of March, 2012 at the Madison Co. Sheriff's Office, 2364 W. US 90, Madison, Florida, at the hour of 11:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, I will offer for sale all of the said defendant's, STEVE E. HARMON'S, one-half (1/2) undivided interest as a tenant in common in aforesaid property at public outcry and will sell the same, subject to all taxes, prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder or bidders for CASH IN HAND. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of Court, telephone (850) 973-1500, no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding.

Benjamin J. Stewart, as Sheriff
Of Madison County, Florida

By: /s/ Sgt. Bill Hart
Sgt. Bill Hart
Deputy Sheriff

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HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lake Park Nursing Center Staffers Visit Kiwanis

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Nursing "homes" like Lake Park are not what people used to imagine whenever they thought of such places.

Today, a far more accurate term for such a facility is nursing "center." Although these facilities do have long-term, and in some cases, permanent residents (usually elderly and/or disabled), they also treat patients who need short-term, intensive therapy, whether physical, occupational or speech, at a skilled nursing facility in order to regain the strength, mobility and functionality they once had, or at least enough of what they once had in order to be self-sufficient again.

Three of Lake Park Nursing Center's staff visited the Kiwanis Club Jan. 26 to talk about the kind of skilled therapy and health care services Lake Park Nursing Center has to offer.

Karen Kocan came to Madison to be near her mother, Dolly Ballard, who retired to Madison from South Florida. Kocan has worked as the Admissions/Marketing Director for Lake Park for the last seven and a half years. Ashley Sevor has worked as Lake Park's Director of Social Services for the last ten years. Bart Alford, who has been a speech therapist for 16 years, has been working with patients at Lake Park since 2002.

Finally, there is Parker the therapy dog who spends

his days at Lake Park. Originally, he spent the night there as well, sleeping in a crate, but he had trouble with separation anxiety when left alone; he now goes home with a different staff member each evening.

Parker had been starved and abused before he was rescued, ending up at the animal shelter; he was then adopted by Lake Park staffers and trained to be a "therapy dog" for the patients and residents.

He has also turned out to be a highly intelligent animal who has free roam of the facility, because he has been successfully trained as to where he can and cannot go. He knows he is not allowed in the dining hall except during Bingo games, and he knows the difference between Bingo sessions and meal times. He also knows he is not allowed in patients' rooms unless accompanied by a staff member.

In speaking to a Kiwanis member shortly after the presentation, Kocan described how Parker had become much more to many residents than just a therapy animal; he has also become a substitute for dearly loved pets who had to be left at home, or even given up, situations Kocan described as "heartbreaking." Parker brings such patients comfort and fills a void in their lives.

"It's amazing, the joy that an animal can bring," said Kocan, which is why Parker is such an important part of the therapeutic environment of Lake Park.

Bart Alford's speech therapy practice includes patients ranging in age from infants to geriatric; currently his oldest patient is 103. One of the best parts of his job, he says, is seeing people, who had once been his patients, on the street or in the grocery store; these are people who were once impaired, who have either made great strides or are fully back to normal functionality. He has also been in practice long enough to see children he had once worked with in kindergarten now graduating from high school.

Any number of injuries or ailments can leave someone speech impaired, including strokes, Parkinson's disease, traumatic brain injury, or even complications after surgery; one of the most common speech-affecting risks of surgery are blood clots forming and then breaking loose, causing strokes.

In all cases, but especially in the case of strokes, the earlier intervention and therapy begins, the better.

Another ailment that can affect speech is difficulty in swallowing. This is a fairly common ailment among Alford's caseload, and it has to be treated intensely and aggressively; otherwise patients with swallowing diffi-



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, January 26, 2012

(Left to right) Ashley Sevor, holding Parker's leash, Parker the therapy dog, Karen Kocan and Bart Alford speak to Kiwanis about the Lake Park Nursing Center of Madison.

culties run the risk of aspirating food particles into their lungs and developing pneumonia as a result.

Alzheimer's can also cause speech difficulty. In cases like these, the patient not only has trouble speaking, but also has trouble remembering common everyday things and profound events in their own lives; one of the things that seemed to help were the "memory books" many families had made for patients; Alford noted that the more pictures these books contained of the patients all through their lives, the more effective they were. In particular, these books were effective in helping patients get through the "sundowning" periods, those afternoons and evenings when Alzheimer's and other dementias are often at their worst.

However, several other conditions can mimic Alzheimer's symptoms of confusion and mental foggi-ness. Urinary tract infections, pernicious anemia, and dehydration are only a few. Some pain medications can also be culprit. If a patient manifests symptoms of mental confusion, especially if the onset is sudden, he or she should be checked for these other conditions that are not only reversible, but are dangerous if left untreated.

Alzheimer's onset is almost always gradual and subtle. The first skills lost are the higher order thinking skills, such as the ability to keep track of checking accounts and other finances. Another early sign of Alzheimer's is getting lost while driving in neighborhoods that are well known and very familiar to the driver.

When it comes to physical therapy, perhaps the kind most people are familiar with is that which takes place after hip, knee or shoulder replacement surgery. Sometimes, once the patient is released from the hospital and sufficiently recovered, the therapy can be done on an out-patient basis.

In addition to giving long-term residents a comfortable, healthy environment that sees to both their physical and emotional wellbeing, it provides the short-term rehab patients the intense, highly skilled nursing care and therapy they need to regain their independence.

"Our goal is for people to go home," said Alford.

The goal for all patients, he added, whether they are permanent residents or shorter-term rehabilitation cases, is to get them to the highest and the safest level of functionality they can reach, for the best quality of life they can have, no matter what their age.

55 Plus Club To Host Pam Wilson Of Big Bend Hospice

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The 55 Plus Club is holding its regular monthly luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 8 at noon at the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries Center at the corner of Colin Kelley Highway and NE Dill Ave., about five miles north of town.

The First United Methodist Church of Madison will be serving the lunch this time and the Club is excited about having Pam Wilson, Executive Director of the Big Bend Hospice Foundation, on hand to give the presentation. She will be talking about the services Big Bend Hospice offers as well as the recent change Hospice has made.

Clerk of Circuit Court Tim Sanders, who is also on the Board of Directors for Big Bend Hospice, will be on hand to introduce Wilson.

The 55 Plus Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon at the UMCM building and is free and open to any one in Madison County 55 or older. There are no fees or dues or registration. Just come on out and enjoy good food and hear fascinating guest speakers addressing topics of interest to Madison's seniors.

For more information on the 55 Plus Club or any of the other outreach ministries of the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries, contact Deborah Brown at (850) 929-4938.

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Madison Residents Participate In Hospice Half & Dewey Dash

By Kristin Finney
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Several Madison residents are participating in the second annual Hospice Half & Dewey Dash. There are three different options for runners to participate: the One Mile Fun Run, the Dewey Dash 5K and the Hospice Half, which is 13 miles. Both routes will begin at Dasher Church of Christ and Georgia Christian School in Dasher, Ga. off of Hwy 41. Water stations will be set up every two miles. There will be music and announcing at the finish line.

Dee Hall, one of the Madison residents participating in the One Mile Fun Run, stated, "I've been running with my dogs to get in shape for the one-miler. After doing this run, I plan on trying a 5K."

Carmen Vasquez, a Madison resident competing in the Dewey Dash 5K, explained her training regimen, "We train four days a week. We run all four days and two days a week we do some kind of workout, like aerobics."

The run will be held on February 18. The cost to enter is \$40 for the Hospice Half, \$17 for the Dewey Dash 5K and \$15 for the One Mile Fun Run. To register to join the run, visit www.active.com and search Hospice Half & Dewey Dash. Registration for the race closes on Saturday, February 18, at 11:59 p.m.



Question: Are you hiring new staff?

Answer: As a matter of fact, we are in the process of hiring an additional Front Desk receptionist. Our patient demand and office is expanding so rapidly that we need additional staff. We are looking for a person with great people skills with the ability to interact with the public. The person we are seeking should be able to provide concierge level of service both in person and on the telephone.

This position is the "Grand Central Station" of the practice. Everything comes in and goes out through the reception area. It will be a busy job which sets a positive tone for the rest of the office. Computer skills are a must. We will train the rest. We will provide special training in telephone skills and dental insurance.

If you are interested in becoming a staff member in our growing office, please read the classified advertisement in this paper, Craig's List, or Madison Voice for directions for how to apply. These directions are the best way to apply for the position.

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 rkshaw@drrodshaw.com Ask the Dentist is devoted to answering your questions about the Art and Science of Dentistry.

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

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