

Wed. January 30, 2013

VOL. 49 NO. 26

Scam Alert



By Kristin Finney Greene Publishing, Inc.

A report was given to Greene Publishing, Inc. of a phone scam. According to the report, the woman received a call claiming to be from the First Financial Bank out of Pittsburgh, Pa. They told the woman that she had won \$350,000 from a coupon that she had filled out in a Readers Digest.

The scammer asked the woman what the name of her bank was, and the woman would not tell him. When asked if they could send the money to her home, the scammer said she would need to send them a check for \$150 to insure the money and to send it through FedEx. The call is being made from an international number.

Sex Offender Registers With Madison Address



Ryan Lee Miller

By Jacob Bemby Greene Publishing, Inc.

A sexual offender has registered with a Madison address.

Ryan Lee Miller has registered with an address of 3843 SW County Road 360 in Madison.

Miller is a 24-year-old white male, who stands 6'2" tall and weighs 211 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes.

Miller's qualifying offense is a July 12, 2010 conviction for lewd or lascivious conduct on a victim under 16 years old by an offender 18 years or older.

Spellers Compete In County Bee



Photos by Jacob Bemby, January 25, 2013 Greene Publishing, Inc.

Katie Mays, of Madison County Central School, was the winner of the Madison County Spelling Bee held Friday, Jan. 25, at the School Board Office in Madison. Katie will travel to Jacksonville to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee. The winner will of that will go to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Spelling Bee. She is pictured with School Superintendent Doug Brown.



Greene Publishing, Inc.

Artheria Williams, of Madison County Central School, was the runner-up of the Madison County Spelling Bee. In case the winner cannot fulfill her obligations, Williams will go to Jacksonville to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee. She is pictured with School Superintendent Doug Brown.



Photo by Jacob Bemby, January 25, 2013

Students from Greenville Elementary, Lee Elementary, Madison Academy, Madison County Central School and Pinetta Elementary School competed in the fifth through eighth grade spelling bee held Friday, Jan. 25. The contestants are shown with School Superintendent Doug Brown.

Some Grave Markers Removed From Fellowship Cemetery

By Lynette Norris Greene Publishing, Inc.

Until a few years ago, there was no charge for a plot in the Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery near Sirmans, because, like small, rural church cemeteries everywhere, everyone who was eventually buried there was a church member, a relative of a church member, or someone somehow connected with the church or a church member. The cemetery itself, with some graves dating back to the 1800's, was kept up mainly on donations.

"That little church used to have many members," said Jimmy Holden, who lives across from Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church,

where he has been a member since he was ten. He has also served on the Church's Board of Trustees for the last 12 or 15 years. His father, Bert Holden, is the pastor.

When there were plenty of members to help maintain the Fellowship Church Ceme-



The sight of so many markers piled in the nearby woods has prompted some families to question what is happening at the cemetery owned by Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church.

Please See Grave Markers on Page 3A

tery, keeping the grass mowed, the leaves raked and the stone slabs swept off was much easier. There were also more people donating money for other maintenance costs.

Today, Holden still sends out around 120 letters a year to families, requesting donations.

Burglaries Being Investigated

By Jacob Bemby Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison Police Department is investigating burglaries to three Colonial Apartments on SW Sumatra Avenue.

According to a report filed by MPD Patrolman Jared Dewey, someone broken into three apartments and three refrigerators, three electric stoves, and three window unit air conditioners were stolen.

There were also three window frames broken during the burglaries.

The owner did not know when it could have occurred, but said it possibly could have happened in a two-week span.

If anyone has any information on the burglaries, please call the Madison Police Department at (850) 973-5077.



MADISON 9 BECOMES MADISON 3

By Jacob Bemby Greene Publishing, Inc.

And then there were three. A fraudulent election investigation, which began with nine people arrested, now has seen charges dropped against four of the suspects and two entering pleas.

The latest three to have charges dropped are Laverne Haynes, Judy Ann Crumitie and Raven Williams.

Charges were dropped against Montollis Roberston two weeks ago.

The three who still face charges are former School Board Member Abra "Tina" Johnson; her husband, Earnest Sinclair Johnson; and former Supervisor of Elections Jada Woods Williams.

The charges were brought about as the result of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation after Abra "Tina" Johnson was elected to the Madison County School Board after absentee ballots were counted.

Shooting Victims In Suwannee County Had Madison County Relatives Man Charged With Two Counts of First Degree Murder

By Jacob Bemby Greene Publishing, Inc.

A tragic shooting in Suwannee County on Saturday, Jan. 26, has Madison County ties as the two victims of the tragedy have relatives in Madison County.

According to the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office, Michael Williams, 46, and his brother, Abram, 41, were at the home of Marcus Cole on 225th Street, near Charles Springs in Suwannee County, when a fight broke out. Cole reportedly went and got a

high-powered rifle. Abe and Mike Williams were shot.

Michael died at the scene.

Abram died on an area hospital on Sunday evening, Jan. 27.

Marcus Cole, 40, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

Joshua White, 31, a stabbing victim during the scuffle is said to be doing okay.

Michael and Abram Williams are the sons of Kenny Williams, who grew up in Lee.

Sexual Offender Registers With Greenville Address



Donald Howard

By Jacob Bemby Greene Publishing, Inc.

A sex offender has registered with a Greenville address.

Donald Jr. Howard (also known as Donald R. Howard, Jr. or Donald Ray Howard, Jr.) listed his permanent address as 324 SW Bishop Avenue, Greenville.

Howard is a black male, who stands 5'5" tall and weighs 152 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes.

He listed 246 SW Wulfert Way in Lamont as a temporary address.

Howard's qualifying offense was an Oct. 11, 1999 conviction for sexual battery.

Index table with 2 sections and 22 pages

Local Weather table for Wed 1/30, Thu 1/31, Fri 2/1, Sat 2/2

Local Weather table for Fri 2/1, Sat 2/2

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

CRACKER SEZ

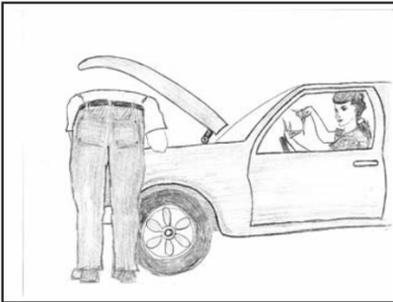
Properness

I told you about Billy Roy Thompson's football scholarship. He stopped in ta' see us again. He said he did have 'uh talk with the cheerleader he mentioned last visit 'n they became friends. Her name is Nellie. He said they was both headed to the library ta' study 'n walked together. Nellie started 'splain'n to him about women. She said, "Now days, women like ta' be treated same as men." Billy offered his arm as they stepped across a curb, 'n she took it. She said, "They don't like ta' be treated like they're weaker." He opened the library door and she said, "Thanks." She said, "It's O.K. Fer' 'uh girl ta' ware pants." He said, "There ain't noth'n 'purtier than 'uh girl in jeans, wear'n 'uh cowboy hat, drive'n 'uh pick-up."

After they each finished their studies, they started back to the park'n lot. Nellie said, "Some day I want ta' travel abroad, so I'm learn'n how ta' be proper in other countries. In Italy you tear off 'uh piece of yer' biscuit before you butter it." Billy said, "You best butter the whole biscuit while it's hot enough ta' melt the butter." She said, "Rapp'n yer' knuckles on the table means thank you." He said, "Here, it means, "Where's the food?"" She said, "In China, slurp'n 'n burp'n means you're enjoy'n yer' food." He said, "Finally we agree on some'm."



Jim Deitrich
Guest Columnist



She said, "Billy, you're actually kinda cute."

He walked her to her car. She said, "We women can take care of ourselves." Then her car wouldn't start. Billy cleaned her battery terminals 'n got it go'n. She thanked him 'n drove off.

Sincerely Yourn'
Cracola O'Lustee
(Cracker fer' short)

National Security



Joe Boyles
Guest Columnist

Mick

In early June 1949 at Independence, Kansas, my maternal grandparents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. It was quite a gathering at the large frame house on north second that was their home for nearly a half century. Judge and Mrs. J. W. Holdren entertained hundreds of family and friends. I was 14 months old at the time and missed all the family photos, apparently asleep upstairs.

At the same time eight blocks away, another event was taking place that would have more far-reaching implications. A father was delivering his oldest son at a boarding house to begin the young man's professional baseball career. Fresh out of high school in nearby Commerce, Oklahoma, 18 year old Mickey Mantle would play out the remainder of the season as the shortstop of the Independence Yankees in the Class D Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri (KOM) League.

Maybe eight years later when I began to get interested in baseball, Mickey Mantle was my idol. No one hit the ball any farther or ran any faster. I was a Yankee fan. Mickey switch-hit; so did I. I had no geographic allegiances to any professional sports team since the nearest was 800 miles away. The first major southern professional sports franchise was years away when the Braves moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta in 1966. I could talk to people in my Mother's hometown who recalled Mickey's first summer in professional baseball. His legend began at an early age.

My daughter gave me a recent book on Mick for Christmas: Jane Leavy's 2010 bestseller "The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the end of America's Childhood." I enjoyed the read.

I have a lot of memories about Mickey and the book reminded me of them and more, but I'd like to focus this article on three environmental factors which made a big difference in his

shortened life: injuries; alcoholism; and retirement. I have a theory about elite athletes like Mickey – they have so much inherent athletic ability in terms of strength and speed that it cannot be contained in the human body. Literally, their athletic ability is so great that they rip their bodies apart. It doesn't happen to many people and even most athletes, but the truly great are plagued with this. Bo Jackson was another.

Certainly Mickey's devastating right knee injury (a triad of torn ACL, LCL and meniscus) at the age of 20 in the second game of the 1951 World Series hastened his decline and subsequent injuries. The knee was not surgically repaired until two seasons later and then only partially – the critical ACL tear was not discovered. Such was the state of orthopedic surgery and sports medicine 60 years ago.

Mantle would play for another 17 years in incredible pain and rip his body apart in a variety of injuries. In his 18 year career as a Yankee, he would lose nearly three seasons to injury. By his own admission, he should have retired four years earlier than he actually did following the 1968 season.

Exactly why Mantle turned to alcohol (and women) as solace is anybody's guess. It was probably a combination of factors: pain; enablers; social morays; killing time; life of the party, etc. Regardless, there was a hole in his soul that he carried his entire life. Just two years before his death at 63 in 1995, he entered the Betty Ford Clinic, under protest, to address his addiction to alcohol. Denial is a common trait among the addicted. It was too late to reverse the long term cirrhosis that destroyed his liver.

I saw a lot of alcohol abuse in my Air Force career and tended look past it. Drinking was part of our devil-may-care fighter

pilot culture. There is a tendency to ignore significant drinking if someone can perform – the myth that if you can handle your liquor, it's okay. Not so. No one could play with a hangover as effectively as Mantle (albeit not to peak capability), but the long term effects were devastating. In his last interview weeks before his death, Mantle admitted that he had wasted his talent.

My attitude toward alcohol changed significantly when I was in my mid-30s and witnessed an aircraft accident that was alcohol related. Our overseas wing was literally torn apart by that accident and its aftereffects. From that point on, I was acutely aware of the warning signs and effects of excessive drinking. My watchword – don't ignore alcoholism; address it upfront.

Mickey Mantle only knew one thing – the game of baseball. When he wasn't on the field, he was the life of the party. When his playing days were over, the only thing he knew how to do was to be "Mickey Mantle." He traded on his name in retirement for nearly three decades. He was a good looking country boy playing in the Big Apple for the best known sports franchise in history. Others like Willie Mays had better statistics, but there was only one Mickey Mantle.

What are the lessons here? Most of us don't have to worry about the significant injuries that Mantle had to deal with. We do have to be on guard against alcoholism ... in ourselves and those around us. And we do have to prepare ourselves for retirement, not only financially but with interests as well. Early on, our profession is literally our identity; we need another identity when work is done. And lastly, even the heroes of our youth have clay feet. Mickey Mantle was only human after all. Aren't we all?



Health & Wellness Tips

from **Frank Nathan**
Executive Director
Lake Park of Madison

DID YOU KNOW.....

Many of us do not move enough to maintain adequate ranges of motion around our joints. As we lose flexibility we may be more prone to injury from muscle pulls, or if the muscle/fascia imbalance is one-sided, a joint may be pulled out of alignment creating discomfort or pain. Stretching is an easy and relaxing way to maintain your range of motion, and to increase it if needed.

For best results, stretch gently enough to feel a pull, but no pain, and as you hold the stretch over 30 seconds to a minute or

two, wait to feel the area loosen. If you feel a tightening sensation as you are holding the stretch, you are probably stretching too hard, and the muscle is contracting in order to prevent injury, which ultimately defeats the purpose. Be certain that you feel the stretch between the joints and not at the joints, as it is important not to stretch the ligaments that hold your bones together, nor the tendons that connect the muscles to the bones. For example, as you stretch your hamstrings on the back of your upper leg, you do not want to feel the stretch behind the knee. Try bending your knee slightly, or adjusting the angle of your leg to move the stretch into the muscle.

You may notice as you stretch, that one side feels tighter than the other. Your stretching goal is to achieve balance, so stretch the tight side twice as long. A few weeks to months later, when both sides seem even, stretch them equally, and congratulate yourself on correcting a muscle imbalance!

Stretching needs to be done a minimum of five days a week to be effective. Once or twice a week will not achieve results. So schedule 15 to 20 minutes daily, and enjoy the luxury of a relaxing stretch. It will feel wonderful, and is a soothing way to let go of some of the day to day stress that infiltrates our being.

You might want to try yoga.

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Letter To The Editor

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

There are people we meet in our lives that make an impression because they have been very helpful in difficult times. One such person is Jean Carroll. As such, we would like to publicly thank her for her kindnesses in a very trying time in our life.

"Thanks Jean for all your hard work as social worker for Madison nursing center. You have helped me many times and I'm sure you have eased the difficult transition of many families and patients when many difficult decisions needed to be made. You are one of a kind and we appreciate you."

Sincerely,
Donald Johnson and Jackie Johnson

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FROM PAGE ONE

Grave Markers

Cont. From Page 1

Now, with only a handful of members, most of whom are older folks, Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church has had to make some changes. A few years ago, the church began charging a \$300 burial fee.

Then, Wade Walker talked to him about forming a fundraising committee for the cemetery grounds, which Holden thinks covers about six acres altogether. This new committee, Fellowship Church Cemetery, Inc., is an entirely different entity than the church and is not affiliated with the church or its Board of Trustees, Holden explained. It is a non-profit group, formed at the beginning of 2012 to oversee things like organizing volunteer clean-ups and taking care of the necessary fund-raising.

It has already held one successful fundraiser last year and is planning another one in 2013 for the third Saturday in April. All proceeds raised by the group go toward the cemetery; none of it goes to the church. The church still owns the cemetery property and the plots where people are buried (the \$300 is a burial fee rather than a deed of sale) and Fellowship Church's Board of Trustees still makes the rules and regulations governing the cemetery.

Over the years, as the church membership dwindled as people moved away, and the extra items people were leaving at the gravesites became more and more of an issue for the few church members left. That was when the Board of Trustees decided to make some changes to make the cemetery's upkeep more manageable.

However, as with any kind of change, there will be problems, especially if it involves the final resting place of a loved one.

Coretha Russell of Taylor County has several generations of her family buried in the cemetery, including parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. In 2010, she wanted to install foot markers around the graves of her great-grandparents and nine of their ten children who had died young. She, her brother, and her sister, met with Pastor Holden at the cemetery and used a measuring tape to determine where the footstones should go, and Russell then paid a monument company for eight granite markers to be professionally installed.

Then, in January of 2011, she paid the \$300 fee for her granddaughter's burial there. She didn't mind paying the money, knowing that times had changed and it was the same for everybody else.

A few months later, she noticed that some of the grave markers or monuments (other than headstones), including statuary, grave covers, and other "whatnots" were being pulled up and placed in the woods near the cemetery.

Then, she realized that the footstones around her great-grandparents' graves were also missing.

Over the years, Russell said she and her husband, Bud, would occasionally get a letter about changes in the cemetery rules, along with a request to remove "this or that" – minor changes, mostly – and they had always complied, because "it was the same for everybody," who had family buried at Fellowship.

When she asked Wade Walker what had become of the removed markers, she remembers him saying, "We put them in the woods down there."

Yes, some markers had been moved, according to Trustee Jimmy Holden, but only from graves whose families had given permission, starting with his own aunts, uncles and other relatives, many of whom came out to the cemetery to help remove the extra markers and statuary. Holden had also cleared out some hedges and shrubs from around his own grandparents' graves, since the board had decided that there would be no more trees and shrubs.

Walker, he added, had also gotten permission from his own relatives to pull up foot markers from around family graves. The markers were not thrown away, he said, but placed in the woods nearby in case out-of-town family members wanted to come in later and claim them.

As for what happened to the granite footstones Russell had installed in 2010, Holden maintains that neither he nor any other church or board member would have removed those stones without her family's permission. There is, however, the possibility of theft or vandalism.

"It happens," he said. Although he can't imagine "what would possess somebody" to vandalize a cemetery, it has happened recently. Just a few days earlier, one of the board members had called law enforcement officers after discovering that somebody tied a rope around a headstone and pulled it over with a truck.

Another headstone, one belonging to Helen Eakins' family, was also toppled, but Eakins feels it was toppled by lawn equipment. When she asked about it, she was promised that it would be repaired, but as far as she knows, it hasn't been done yet.

Russell's cousin, JoAnn Wilson, lives near the cemetery, has already paid the \$300 burial fee for herself and her husband, and chosen the plots where they would like to be buried. However, she says that since she made the selection, there had been several changes to the rules about how those plots could be marked. First it was posts with a chain through them, then it was 6 x 6 granite markers outlining the plots, then it was something else.

Holden confirmed that the board has had to revise the rules a few times as different things came up and needed to be taken into consideration.

After clearing away items from their own relatives' graves, the Board of Trustees sent out letters a few weeks ago to the families, explaining the new rules and citing safety reasons (cemetery visitors possibly tripping over foot markers or other obstacles, for example) or possible damage to lawn main-

tenance equipment.

However, even though the rules state that foot markers will no longer be allowed, Holden said that nobody is going to force removal of any permanent markers if the families refuse, or pull up markers without permission. In some cases, perhaps the families could be persuaded to lower the foot markers so that they are flush with the ground and easier to maintain. The only things that will be removed from around the gravesites are plastic fencing, PVC pipe, "whatnots," faded flowers and other small items.

Wilson, who went to the cemetery the Friday after Thanksgiving and photographed some of the graves, as well as the markers placed in the nearby woods, said that in some cases, the families involved had been given different deadlines for complying with the new rules. The letter she received gives Feb. 28 as the deadline, while her neighbor, Eakins, got a letter saying that the deadline was Jan. 31.

In the meantime, Russell has consulted with an attorney over the matter. "They say it's a historical cemetery," she said. "To me, 'historical' means fix up and preserve, not pull up and throw away." With several generations of her family having lived in Madison County, she reckons that she is probably related in some way or another to almost everyone buried there. "It's family and it's family, and it's family."

"In my opinion, a lot of people are confused about what's going on," said Holden. "If anything has been damaged, I can assure you it has nothing to do with Fellowship Church, nothing to do with Fellowship Church board members, and nothing to do with the fundraising committee." In fact, the fundraising committee has discussed continuing to have volunteers mow the cemetery. By stretching their funds as far as possible, they hope to be able to repair or replace some of the older headstones that are either broken or have illegible, eroded inscriptions. For the time being, they want to try keeping the cemetery clean by themselves for a year or two and build up their funding.

"We're just a handful of people here," said Holden, adding that he'd like to have the families' help in getting all the graves into compliance, thus minimizing time and cost. "All we're trying to do is get it more organized and beautified."

The cemetery presents a challenge because the graves are not lined up in straight lines, but with fewer markers to mow and clean up around, maintaining it is a more manageable job for the small group. "That is our little church and it's home," said Holden of Fellowship Baptist Church. When it comes to the cemetery, "we try our best not to make it a burden on the families."

For those relatives who have questions, Holden added that they could call him on his cell phone at (850) 843-5456, and he'd be happy to meet with them at the church or cemetery to talk about it.

"Anything can be worked out," he said.



Car Shopping Tips For Older Drivers

Dear Savvy Senior,
What resources can you recommend to seniors who are shopping for a car? My wife and I are relatively healthy 70-year-olds and are looking for a new senior-friendly vehicle, but could use some help.

Older Drivers

Dear Older,
For seniors who are in the market for a new or used car, the AAA (American Automobile Association) and the University of Florida's Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation has just updated an excellent resource called "Smart Features for Older Drivers" that can help you choose a vehicle that meets your needs as you age.

Senior-Friendly Vehicles

While the automot-

ive industry doesn't make vehicles specifically designed for senior citizens, they do make certain vehicles with features that can help accommodate the needs of older drivers.

With that in mind, "Smart Features for Older Drivers" addresses the age-related physical changes – like diminished vision, arthritis, and range of motion loss – that can affect a senior's driving ability and comfort behind the wheel, and outlines various vehicle features that help address those issues. Here's what they recommend.

Safety First

The first priority is to identify vehicles with a proven safety record which you can research online at safecar.gov and iihs.org/ratings. Also look for vehicles

that have dynamic stability control, anti-lock brakes, adjustable head restraints, and side and dual-stage/threshold airbags that adjust the deployment force based on the severity of the crash.

Your next step is to identify specific vehicle features that can help meet your physical needs. So depending on what ails you, here's what to look for:

Hip and knee problems: For comfort, a better fit, and easier entry and exit, look for vehicles that have six-way adjustable power seats that move the seat forward and backward, up and down, and the seat-back forward and backward. Also look for low door thresholds and seat heights that don't require too much bending or climbing to get into. The ideal seat height for seniors is between mid-thigh and lower buttocks when standing next to the vehicle. Leather or faux leather seats are also easier to slide in and out of than cloth seats.

Stiff upper body: If you have difficulty looking over your shoulder to back up or merge into traffic, look for vehicles with a large rear window for better visibility, wide-angle mirrors which can minimize blind spots, back-up cameras, active parallel park assistance, and blind-spot warning systems that alert you to objects in the way. Also, for comfort and fit, consider vehicles that have a tilt and telescoping steer-

ing wheel, adjustable seatbelts, and heated seats with lumbar support.

Arthritic hands: For easier use, four-door vehicles are recommended because the doors are smaller, lighter and easier to open and close than two-door models. And to help with painful gripping and turning problems, look for keyless entry and a push-button ignition, a thicker steering wheel, power mirrors and seats, and a sliding channel gear selector.

Diminished vision: Drivers with vision loss due to cataracts, glaucoma or some other

condition will find vehicles with larger instrument panels and dashboard controls with contrasting text easier to see and manipulate. And those with sensitivity to glare will benefit from extendable sun visors, auto-dimming rearview mirror and glare reducing side mirrors.

Smart Features Resource

To access the "Smart Features for Older Drivers" resource, visit *Senior Driving*. AAA.com/SmartFeatures and use their online tool that lets you choose the age-friendly features you want in a

vehicle, and the tool will identify the makes and models that best fit your needs.

Or, if you don't have internet access call your AAA (call 800-222-4357 to get your local number) and ask them to mail you free copy of the "Smart Features for Older Drivers" brochure. You don't have to be a AAA member to get this free publication.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Obituaries

William Curtis Curry, Sr.

William Curtis Curry, Sr., age 84, of Jennings, passed away Thursday, January 24, 2013 at Lake City VA Medical Center in Lake City. Mr. Bill was born on August 27, 1928 in Okeechobee, to the late Clarence and Ollie Mae Rowell Curry. He served his country in the Army-Air Force and was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean conflict and was awarded numerous service medals for his brave and dedicated service. Mr. Curry was a long-time resident of Madison County, FL, where he managed the Suwannee Swifty Store for a number of years. He was also a former resident of Steinhatchee, FL.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Mary Evelyn Curry, Jennings; two sons, Billy Curry and his wife, Tammi Smith Curry of Jennings and Allen Curry of Australia; one beautiful daughter, Renee Benson and her husband Destin of Tallahassee; nine grandchildren, Stephen Morris, Christina Rowell, Michael Rowell, Heather Morris Stormant (Andy), Will Curry, Aaron Rowell, Jordan Curry, Zachary Rowell and Caroline Rowell.

Graveside services were held Monday, January 28, 2013 at Waters Cemetery near Steinhatchee.

Harry T. Reid Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Emily Frances Albanese Thrift

Emily Frances Albanese Thrift, age 73, died Friday, January 25, 2013, in Madison.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 29, 2013, at Beggs Funeral Home with burial at San Pedro Cemetery. Visitation was held Monday from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born in Boston, Mass., and moved to Lake Worth. When she was 10, they moved to Long Island, N.Y., then moved to Miami, Perry and Madison. She loved the outdoors, fishing, camping at parks, crocheting and canning foods and jellies.

She is survived by her husband, Willie A. "Buck" Thrift of Cherry Lake; two sons, Dennis Odom (Debbie) of Cherry Lake and Steve Odom of Dallas, Ga.; two daughters, Donna Cruce and Barbara Thrift of Cherry Lake; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Beggs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Bezick- Hamel Wedding Announcement

Robert and Linda Bezick would like to announce the marriage of their daughter, Brittany, to Michael Hamel of Pensacola, FL, son of Michael and Rennee Hamel of Milton, FL. The couple was married at Sacred Heart Cathedral of Pensacola, FL on December 29, 2012. Brittany is currently employed as a Legislative Assistant to Florida House Representative Clay Ford. Michael is the manager and lead instructor of Martial Arts America, Pace, FL. The couple are both graduates of the University of West Florida and are currently residing in Pensacola, FL.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Recognizes Roy Ellis For 11 Years Of Service

Roy Ellis was recently awarded a Certificate of Service recognizing over 11 years of service at the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council meeting in Lake City by Scott Koons, Executive Director of the Council. In January 2001, Ellis began over 11 years of service on the Council as a local elected official representing Madison County.

The Council, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the 11 counties and 33 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of Florida. The Council, whose members are local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees, administers a variety of state and federal programs for north central Florida including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties. Programs include development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, technical assistance to local governments in development of comprehensive plans, land development regulations and grant management, and administration of developments of regional impact, local mitigation strategies, hazardous materials, homeland security and economic development programs. In addition, the Council staffs the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Plan-



Roy Ellis

ning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

Ellis has been very active in the organization. He has served two terms as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. He also served two terms as Chair of the Finance, Nominating and Program Committees and has been a member of the Board of Directors for 11 terms.

The Council's offices are located in Gainesville. More information about the Council can be found at ncfrpc.org.



Sons of Jubal Representatives Visit Madison Rotary Club



Greene Publishing Inc., Photo by Lynette Norris, January 23, 2013

Rev. Jim Pitt and Rev. Andy Daughtry of the Sons of Jubal describe the group's trip to perform in North Korea.

By Lynette Norris

Greene Publishing, Inc.

"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ." Gen. 4:21

The Sons of Jubal is a male chorus comprised of ministers of music who serve in Baptist churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Formed in 1954, it is the oldest performing organization its kind, and includes the Jubal Brass and Jubal Handbells. The members come from all over the state of Georgia and sing at venues throughout Georgia, the United States, and around the world.

Recently, two members of the choral group visited the Madison Rotary Club to talk about their historic trip to North Korea and China a few months ago. Rev. Andy Daughtry, former resident of Madison County, now Associate Pastor and Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Quitman, Ga., and Rev. Jim Pitt spoke of the unique opportunity to travel to Pyongyang, North Korea, at the request of the North Korean government and present a musical performance during their 2012 April Spring Friendship Art Festival. The Sons of Jubal were the second largest musical performing group there, representing the United States as ambassadors of goodwill, as the "salt and light" of the world.

It was not a typical travel experience, especially not for a Christian music group; they were traveling to a country where they saw no trace of religion anywhere in public, not even the Buddhist temples that could be found throughout South Korea. Instead, the political leader and ideological "father" of North Korea, Kim Il Sung, was revered everywhere, to the point where one of his last known signatures had been turned into a huge sculptured monument in a park.

In fact, the April Art Festival was a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of Kim Il Sung's birth. With the fireworks and pageantry on a massive scale that would dwarf the largest Disney Production, the festival was like "the Fourth of July for a whole week," said Daughtry. The North Koreans could certainly "put on a good show."

Rev. Pitt, who had previously served in Korea in the U.S. Air

Force, added that he never dreamed that one day he'd be traveling back there to sing. "That was an awesome experience," he said.

The group was not allowed to take any cell phones into the country, and only four were allowed to have cameras. Although they were treated very well the entire length of their stay, for those six days they had no contact whatsoever with the outside world. They were told before their arrival that certain topics of conversation were forbidden, especially any criticism of the North Korean government, and they were to assume that they would be under surveillance, even in their hotel rooms. They would not be allowed to sing their usual repertoire of Christian music, but they planned to present several classic American songs, show tunes, Mozart and even some Korean folks songs that they had learned only a few weeks earlier.

There was the amusing story of the big red Steinway grand piano on the stage that no one was allowed to touch, except for the keys, as Daughtry discovered after he had touched it, to the consternation of the stage managers. *Only the keys! The keys and nothing else!* If the music stand fell over during rehearsal, a special stage assistant wearing white gloves would lift it back into place, buffing the shiny red wood as he did so.

The Sons of Jubal sang two concerts to standing room only crowds in a concert hall that held 3000, in the middle of downtown Pyongyang, North Korea, and sang "with a heart we have never heard before," as one lady told them, and went on to win first place among all the musical performance groups.

The songs they sang in Korean, favorite, well-loved folk songs, were crowd-pleasers. In return, the officials in charge asked them to sing one of their own favorites if they liked. The group chose, and received permission to sing, "Amazing Grace."

In that curious way that music has of transcending language, the melody, if not the words, was known to most of the audience. As the Sons of Jubal sang out the words *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound*, they realized they were hearing, throughout the auditorium, the sweet sound of many, many voices humming along with them.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

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All E: Hayden Ashworth, Danica Baggett, Ethan Bass, Nash Beshears, Suzanne Beshears, Natalie Clark, Lauren Davis, Kristina Everly, Jacob Flynt, Josh Forehand, Emma Green, Kyle Hamrick, Chance Pridgen, Logan Reidle, Baylor Sever, Caleb Walker, Elizabeth Walker, Raegan Walker, Jason Wheeler

All E, S+, S: Feren Rosas

First Grade (Roberts)

All A: Riley Beggs, Tyson Clark, Harper Davis, Lauchlin Faglie, Chase Oester, Walker Sparkman, Emma Vickers

All A and B: Joshua Boland, Adam Day, Dalton Demott, Wyman Demott, Daniel Hoenstine, Leigha Hunt, Jady Kinsey, Kyle Padgett, Joshua Payne, Zachary Sears, Tyler Stowers, Emilee Walker

Second Grade (Love)

All A: Brewster Bass, Axel Day, Ali Townsend

All A and B: Ryan Adams, Joleane Alexandrou, Destiny Clore, Aiden Day, Anna Drawdy, Sammi Drawdy, Jace Grant, Daniel Harrington, Tyler Hoenstine, Samuel Kennedy, Kenzie Key, Daisy Kinard, Haylie McLeod, Macy Reagan, Riley Rutledge, Lillie Schwier, Carline Taylor, Emma Tharpe, Kaitlyn Tharpe, Paxton Williams

Third Grade (Aman)

All A: Turner Beshears, Kasey Chmura, Tag Williams

All A and B: Caitlin Bates, Jacob Green, Mandy Guo, Oliver Hutsell, Addison Shiver, Megan Vann, Tristan Walker, Ben Whiddon

Fourth Grade Multi-Age (Falk)

All A: Joey Davis
All A and B: Lindsey Davis, Selina Drawdy, Keira Evans, Riley Hamrick, Tyler Slaughter

Fourth Grade (Whiddon)

All A: Brady Browning, Kolton Gramling, Riley Rowe, Olivia Walton

All A and B: Natalie Andrews, Jeb Beshears, Dean Forehand, Jared Grant, James Hightower, Liam Mediate, Krishan Patel, Sarah Plain, Alissa Roland, Jarrett Roland, MaryRose Schwier, Wyatt Stafford, Will Sullivan, Makayla Walker, Ginger Whiddon

Fifth Grade Multi-Age (Falk)

All A: Bailey McLeod
All A and B: Jamieson Dalzell, Ansley English, Nathan Green, Carl Hall, Austin Wheeler

Fifth Grade (Hughey)

All A: Abby Reams
All A and B: Jacob Barker, Dawson Bishop, Nathan Dukes, Jason Hamilton, Brandon Hannon, Marley Restrepo

Sixth Grade

All A: Emily Brock, Carley Ondash, Megan Schofill

All A and B: Brandon Bates, Grace Beshears, Emily Forehand, Ian Hutsell, Ryan Jackson, Rachel Johnson, Hayley Lewis, Chloe Reams, Dilyn Stowers

Seventh Grade

All A: Timothy Finlayson, Camryn Grant

All A and B: Stewart Dalzell, Summer Dee, Skylar Dickey, Jacob Dukes, Jade Greene, Elizabeth Hightower, Evan Hocking, Katie James, Carly Joiner, Haley Jones, Abigail Morgan, Hanna Searcy, Joe Walton, Mickaela Whiddon

Eighth Grade

All A and B: Traynor Barker, Daulton Browning, Cali Burkett, Faith Demott, Stephanie English, Joshua Greene, Sarah Hall, Chaz Hamilton, Joe Hannon, Kelly Horne, Brittany Hughes, Jenny Jackson, Heather James, Hannah Lewis, Summerlyn Marsh, Kirsten Reagan, Ramsey Sullivan, Kate Whiddon Austin Wilford

Ninth Grade

All A: Dorian Alberti, Corey Brandies, Taylor Copeland, Dalton Gramling, Abigail Hettinger, Zackery Peterson, Sarah Tharpe, Emma Witmer

All A and B: Sam Hogg, Savannah Jenkins, T. J. Swords

Tenth Grade

All A: Morgan Cline, Ricky Finlayson, Sarah James

All A and B: Austin Bishop, Kinzi Mattingly, Carson Nennstiel, Kelsi Reams, Monique Restrepo, Tyler Zimmerly

Eleventh Grade

All A: Cole Davis, Hunter Horne, Aimee Love

All A and B: Lauren Demott, Marisa Duber, Brandon Holm, Braden Mattingly, Ashlyn Mills, Sara Peeler, Whitney Stevens

Twelfth Grade

All A: Ashli Cline, Jay Finlayson, Jared Jackson, Kaley Love, Whitney McKnight, Michaela Metcalfe, Hadley Revell, Audrey Waters, Josh Wood

All A and B: Alexis Burkett, Tres Copeland, Samantha Douglas, Brooke Kinsley, Ashley Schofill, Caroline Schwab, Gus Smyrnios, Hans Sorensen, Pamela Watt, Kaleb Wyche

Dennis Roberts: A Person For The People *A defender in the courtroom and battlefield*

Courtesy of Bryant Thigpen
Suwannee Democrat
bryant.thigpen@gafnews.com

Dennis Roberts has served as the public defender for the Third Judicial Circuit for 24 years and has now left the elected office for retirement. Roberts closed his briefcase on Dec. 31, 2012 and handed the office keys to the newly elected Blair Payne, who served as an assistant public defender to Roberts.

"My plans after retirement are still to be determined," Roberts laughed. "I'm a little apprehensive about that right now. I don't plan on practicing law. I've never been one to fish, hunt or golf. I don't do any of those. I know it's an old cliché, but I do plan on spending more time with my family."

After graduating from Union County High School, Roberts enrolled at Lake City Community College. He completed just one year of college before joining the United States Marine Corp. Roberts spent two years in active duty; one of the two years was spent overseas during the time of the Vietnam War.

Roberts then continued his education at LCCC and graduated with honors. Roberts relocated to Gainesville and took undergraduate classes at the University of Florida. Following his graduation from Rollins College in 1980 with a Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Roberts packed his bags and moved back to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida's School of Law.

"That was a busy time in my life," he said. "During my first month of law school, my wife and I had our first child, I served on the Lake City City Council, and I was an officer in the National Guard."

Prior to being elected as the public defender, Roberts also served as a public defender investigator and an assistant public defender. What makes Roberts unique, is that he is the only person in the state to serve in all three positions in a public defenders office.

Roberts was elected in 1989 to serve as the public defender. The first attorney he hired was Lee Peters Jr., an attorney he opposed often in Lafayette County. He also hired current Judge Lin Williams as an assistant.

"I look back and see how fortunate I've been to have a great 24 years in the office," Roberts said. "We've never had any type of scandal or anything that would lose the respect of the people. I think we served the people quite well."

"When I first took office, there was only one office, in Lake City," he said. "My first mission was to establish another full-time office that would be more accessible to the people. So with-"

Throughout the 24 year period in office, Roberts had very little changes in personnel. Williams eventually left the office to take the seat as a Third Circuit judge, but Peters remained with Roberts until his retirement.

"Probably one of the most memorable cases I worked was defending a husband and wife who were being tried for manslaughter and child neglect. "In essence, they did not provide medical care for the child because of religious beliefs," said Roberts. "The case arose



Dennis Roberts

in Columbia County, but due to the publicity and popularity of the case, the judge moved it to Suwannee County. The court ruled that they were guilty of manslaughter, but not guilty of child neglect. However, the appellate court overturned the guilty verdict of manslaughter."

Roberts noted that both 20/20 and Court TV was on hand to cover the case "from gavel to gavel."

During his career of practicing law, Roberts also served in the United States Army Reserves. Some of the highlights from his military career include being promoted to Second Lieutenant, Infantry Branch, graduating from US Army Infantry Officers School, graduated from US Judge Advocate General's School from the University of Virginia, and served in all five major commands of Florida Army National Guard.

Roberts retired as Lieutenant Colonel from the US Army, Florida National Guard in 2007 with 32 years of service on his resume.

Roberts admits that his retirement is bitter-sweet.

"Although I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, I'm going to miss the people in the entire system. I am friends with pretty much everybody in the entire judicial system. I'm leaving the office in good hands. Blair Payne, who was one of my assistants, will be taking the position," said Roberts. "I am extremely pleased that an attorney of that quality will be taking over the office."

Spending time with his loving family is first on Robert's list of things to do. Roberts is married to Tina, and they have three children: Denille (AJ Decker), Daniel (Tara) and Dianna (Jay Swisher). The couple have two grandchildren, Lyla and Deacon, and another granddaughter, Eva, is expected in February.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Blair Payne: A passion to defend

Courtesy of Bryant Thigpen, *Suwannee Democrat*
bryant.thigpen@gafnews.com

Blair Payne has been elected to serve as the public defender replacing Dennis Roberts, who left office for retirement. Payne served as an assistant to Roberts for the past two years prior to running for the office.

"I tried to talk Dennis into staying four more years," Payne said. "Dennis has been absolutely great to work for, and we'll miss him. But when he announced his retirement, I started getting calls from different people encouraging me to run [for public defender]. The more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea."

Payne walked into the election unopposed and with the blessings of Roberts.

"I'm leaving the office in good hands," Roberts said. "I am extremely pleased that an attorney of that quality

will be taking over the office."

Since Payne's early teenage years, the thoughts of being an attorney flickered off and on. Payne recalls moments inside the Hamilton County Courtroom that "sparked" his interest.

"I remember sitting through a trial or two inside that courtroom thinking, 'Man, I would love to be one of those guys.' You could say that sparked me."

Payne grew up in the city limits of Jasper and attended Hamilton County High School. Coming from a rich heritage of educators, Payne became "the odd ball" by choosing to go to law school instead of teaching.

His path to law school began after receiving his diploma in 1973. Payne enrolled at North Florida Junior College (currently North Florida Community College) and graduated two years later with an Associate of Arts degree. He



Blair Payne

then transferred to Valdosta State in Valdosta, Ga. and walked across the stage in 1978, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Criminal

Justice.

Payne took some time off away from the books and went to work at Occidental Chemical Corp.

"It didn't take me long to figure out that's not where I belonged," he laughed. About a year later, Payne was packing his bags and moving to St. Petersburg to attend

Stetson University's School of Law.

In June of 1979, Payne became an official student at Stetson. From there, he worked continually until his degree was complete in December of 1981. While working to obtain a Juris Doctorate, Payne realized the big city life was not for him.

"During my last summer in law school, I did summer clerkship at a law firm in Orlando. I told God that if he ever got me out of Orlando, that I probably wouldn't come back, and if I did, it wouldn't be for a long time. It was a very long time before I went back," he laughed.

Straight out of law school, Payne went to work for Darby, Peele, Page and Bowdoin in Lake City. Payne remained with the firm for 26 years prior to accepting the position with the public defender's office as an assistant.

"In a five minute conversation with Dennis, I knew I wanted to work for him and he knew that he wanted me to work for him," Payne said. "I felt like this would be a great opportunity for me and I'm very grateful for Dennis

and all he has done for the office."

"I'm blessed to have been left a great staff," he said. "Dennis did a great job filling the staff and creating a great culture in the office."

In anticipation of the future, Payne said he doesn't see major changes coming.

"I was hoping Lee (Peters) would stay, but I totally understand him wanting to retire, so I had to find a replacement for him. Replacing Lee was no easy task. He is such a great person and a great attorney."

Due to Lee's retirement, Payne hired Tom Stone, who had a private practice in Madison, to resume the role as division chief.

"I'm just truly grateful. I'm so lucky that I get to do what I really love," Payne said. "For me, it's a pleasure to get up and come to work. I love practicing law."

Payne said that although he will have the title as public defender and will oversee both Lake City and Live Oak offices, he plans to continue to make his presence known in the courtroom, doing what he loves.

Lion's Club Hoping To Begin A Leo Club This Year

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

With more high schools placing a greater emphasis on community service hours, and more colleges looking at the community service section of a high school graduate's college application, community service clubs and volunteer organizations are taking on more and more importance for students.

The Lion's Club of Madison is hoping to sponsor a community-wide Leo Club for students ages 12-18 in Madison County. The club would be an outreach of the Lion's Club and provide another outlet for interested students, and would be much like several other community service clubs such as 4-H or FFA. Leo Club mem-

bers would also assist the Lion's Club members throughout the year in events such as the Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot and the Fourth of July God and Country Celebration.

As of now, the Lion's Club would like to find out how many local students, aged 12-18 (including home-schooled students) would be interested in forming a Leo Club in Madison, and if there are enough young people interested, the start-up date would probably be the beginning of the 2013 school year this August or September.

For more information on Leo Clubs, or to register your interest in starting one or being a member, contact Lion's Club President Jay Lee at (850) 973-7509.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Local Professor Rose Knox Publishes Canoeing And Camping Guide For Historic Suwannee River

As a child, Rose Knox's imagination soared as she navigated Madison County's 600-acre Cherry Lake by canoe. These early explorations began a fascination with the outdoors and canoeing that carried over into adulthood. Knox, an educator and freelance writer, has now spent decades exploring the historic Suwannee River and area waterways. In 2012, Knox's book *Canoeing and Camping on the Historic Suwannee River: A Paddlers Guide* was published by the Florida Historical Society. Knox co-authored the historical, photographic guidebook with professional river guide Graham Schorb.

The 356 page work is a practical guide to exploring the Suwannee River for fun or historical value. It chronicles in meticulous detail how paddlers can visit fascinating, significant cultural and historical sites, including pioneer cemeteries and former native Indian villages. Schorb's "Outdoor Kitchen" chapter even shares some scrumptious outdoor cooking and suggested camping locations along the magnificent river. The book relives the Suwannee River's compelling history while offering practical canoe camping information and informative sectional maps to help paddlers journey the 242 mile long river. It also includes archival photographs, noted Florida artists' renderings, and wildlife and topography photographs of the Okefenokee Swamp and the Suwannee River Basin.

"I hope people will appreciate the places as they paddle the legendary Suwannee River," said Knox. "Knowing people lived, laughed, or suffered and died here makes the river literally come to life. When I am paddling, I can almost hear the whistle of a steamship or hear laughter emanating from the ruins of the old resorts. I can imagine escaped plantation slaves, running with the Seminoles. It is a fascinating story and so many of the tales have been lost to time. The story of the Suwannee River is the story of our entire country in some respects."

During her research and travels down the Suwannee River, from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Gulf of Mexico, Knox has met many interesting people - historians, archeologists, river people and artists - including noted artist Theodore Morris of *Florida's Lost Tribes* who contributed some of his work to the manuscript. "Meeting these talented people has brought joy to my life," said Knox. But one aspect of canoeing that Knox most enjoys is the natural beauty and peacefulness she finds along the way. "The serenity of the natural world is like detoxification from the many stresses of modern life,"



Photo submitted

Rose Knox, an educator and freelance writer, is an instructor at North Florida Community College.

said Knox. "All humans need silence. It is truly a balm that soothes the soul."

Since publishing *Canoeing and Camping on the Historic Suwannee River: A Paddlers Guide* in 2012, Knox and Schorb have been invited to speak at several gatherings of civic organizations and community groups, including the Florida Historical Society meeting in Cocoa, the National Sierra Club at Suwannee River State Park, the Teacher Honorary Society in Madison, the Brotherhood at the First United Methodist Church in Madison, the Madison Historical Society and Treasures Museum, as well as other local organizations. On January 28 they are scheduled to speak at the Taylor County Library in Perry at 5:30 p.m.

Knox and Schorb are currently working on their next compilation which will chronicle the history of the vast Okefenokee Swamp. Knox credits many for encouraging her creativity and love for literature - "Many people have helped me in my journey. Frances Sanders, my fourth grade teacher, had a huge impact on me. She was fascinated with Robert Frost and with song birds. Her joy was contagious. Also, my NFCC professor, the late Joe Akerman; he believed in the guidebook in its very early stages. He said, 'Rosie, you've got something there. That should be published.' I trusted his ideas because he was a published writer." Knox also credits her parents for helping her develop an early love of reading and research through weekly visits to the library during her childhood - "They taught me that reading was fun. That impacted me in a huge way, too."

Now, as an instructor at North Florida Community College, Knox hopes to pass on a passion for reading and learning to her students - "Students must know how words can empower them. I try to make learning fun. If people are not having fun while learning, what is the point? I teach students the power of their words, and how reading and knowledge is actually free. All you have to do is to open up a book. Many of the societal problems we face today stem directly from illiteracy and ignorance. Knowledge is Power. I want them to always know that."

Canoeing and Camping on the Historic Suwannee River: A Paddlers Guide is available at The Old Bookstore in Madison or from the Florida Historical Society website www.myfloridahistory.org. For an autographed copy, email suwanneeriverrose@yahoo.com.

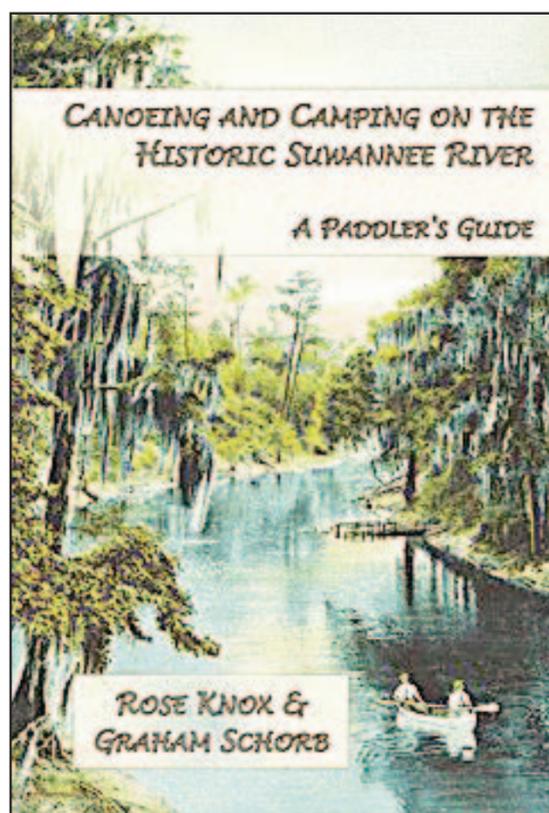


Photo submitted

Cover Image - Canoeing and Camping on the Historic Suwannee River: A Paddlers Guide

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Photo submitted

Rose Knox kayaking on the Suwannee River with her river dogs.

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Photo submitted

Theodore Morris works directly with archeologists to portray precise details about natives for his paintings. Here he depicts an Apalachee native American Indian wrapped in a black bear robe. Photo Courtesy of Theodore Morris.

Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds
(850) 973-4141
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SERVICES

Yes we take trades! Replace your old home with a more efficient and much stronger safer home now. Call 386-365-8549.

11/7 - rtm, c

I am a retired nurse; and want to do private duty work with the elderly. If you can use me, I am available for any shift. Excellent references. 464-7276 (Cell)

run, n/c

Do you have dead or junk batteries? Recycle them at Madison Metals. Top prices paid. Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m and lunch from 12 - 1. Call (850)-973-4172.

10/3 - rtm, n/c

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Complete Auto Painting, Body and Collision Repair, Replace Window Motors, Headlights Resurfaced, Dent and Ding Removal, Frame Straightening, and Bedliners. We Accept Insurance Repairs
1524 S. SR 53, Madison. (850) 97-FIXIT (973-4948)

2/8 - rtm, n/c

YARD SALE

Moving Sale
Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Located on 9166 Moseley Hall Rd in Greenville. There will be furniture, some antiques, miscellaneous items and other great stuff.

1/30, pd

Huge Yard Sale
126 NE School Rd (off Madison Hwy)
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Valentine flower arrangements, new & used jewelry, arts and crafts, household items, boyds bears, coca-cola products, wooden table & chairs and lots more. **Bring this ad in and receive \$5 off of a purchase of \$25 or more.**

1/30, 2/6, pd

FOR SALE

Peanut Hay For Sale
4'x5' rolls. \$40 each. Call Henry Terry at (850)-673-7711.

11/7 - rtm, n/c

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.

3/3, run, n/c

FOR SALE

1995 White Chrysler LHS. Sunroof, leather interior, new AC, new tires, V-6 engine, regular maintenance. 117,000 miles. \$3,500 O.B.O. Call (850) 971-5856.

1/30, 2/6, pd

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE BY OWNER

Greenville, 3/2, nice house on 6 high and dry city lots. New windows, roof, heat & ac, siding, master shower. \$92,000.00 Possible owner financing. 850-599-5121.

1/18 - rtm, c

Near Lloyd; 3/3 double wide. Very nice with lots of tile and hardwood, fireplace, skylight, screenroom, carport, workshop on 5 beautiful acres with live stream, woods and fenced pasture. Asking \$129k, possible owner financing. 850-599-5121.

1/18 - rtm, c

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

2006 Fleetwood home. Super clean and looks brand new. Call Mike at 386-623-4218.

11/7 - rtm, c

Now is the best time to buy a new mobile home! Low rates means new homes under \$400 month! 386-365-8549.

11/7 - rtm, c

New five bedroom three bath doublewide home just go now. Make offer. Selling below cost! Call Steve 386-365-8549.

11/7 - rtm, c

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11/7 - rtm, c

Nice triplewide, fireplace, glamour bath, sliding glass doors, new metal roof. Must sell now. Reduced to only \$22,900 cash. 386-365-8549.

11/7 - rtm, c

New and used homes starting as low as \$6,500 on doublewides. Call Mike 386-623-4218.

11/7 - rtm, c

Blow out pricing on all 2012 mobile homes. Making room for new 2013 homes. Call Mike 386-623-4218.

11/7 - rtm, c

2013 homes of merit tape and texture starting at \$375 per month. Call Mike 386-623-4218.

11/7 - rtm, c

Used single wide 16x80 3 bedroom 2 bath home ready to go at \$15,900. Call Mike 386-623-4218.

11/7 - rtm, c

FOR RENT

2 BD Mobile Home for rent. (850) 973-2504.

1/16 - rtm, c

Trailer For Rent
3 BD 2 BA DoubleWide with sunroom on 1 acre. \$450 per month with \$400 deposit. (850) 973-0340.

1/23, 1/30, pd

Home for Rent or Sale
3 BD, 2 full bath with automatic garage door. Wooden floor. Downtown Madison. (954) 261-9747.

1/23, 1/30, pd

Deadline for Classifieds
Every Monday and Wednesday 3 p.m.

FOR RENT

Trailers for Rent
2 BD 2 BA and also a 3 BD 1 BA trailer for rent. Water furnished. (850) 464-7614.

1/30, pd

Office Building For Rent
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7/18 - rtm, n/c

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TDD 711
Equal Housing Opportunity

6/22, rtm, c

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12/5 - rtm, c

Greenville Pointe Apartments

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Equal Housing Opportunity

run, c

HELP WANTED

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1/9 - 1/30, c

City of Madison, FL seeks logging services to clear property. Phone City Manager Tim Bennett at (850) 973-5081.

1/30, c

FL Cert Teachers Needed:
Contact Jamie Newberry, Education Director. Twin Oaks Vocational Academy. (850) 948-1200, x281 or jnewberry@togha.org.

1/30 - 2/20, c

You Can Be A CNA
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1/18 - 2/27, pd

The City of Madison, Florida has an opening for the position of **Maintenance Laborer**. A CDL "B" is required. Apply at www.WorkforceFlorida.com or visit your local workforce office.

1/30, c

Madison County Memorial Hospital. Now Hiring **GN's, RN's, LPN's, CNA's** Full Time & As Needed. Send Resume to 850-973-8158 or Contact Human Resources 850-973-2271 ext 1906 EOE/DFW.

1/23, 1/30, c

The City of Madison, Florida has an opening for the position of **Fire Inspector**. Must be certified as a Firefighter and Fire Inspector. Apply at www.WorkforceFlorida.com or visit your local workforce office.

1/30, c

HELP WANTED

PARTTIME CASE MANAGER POSITION FOR REFUGE HOUSE MADISON COUNTY OFFICE AVAILABLE. PLEASE SEE THE AD ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.refugehouse.com. UNDER CONTACT US/WORK WITH US.

1/25, 1/30, 2/6, c

North Florida Child Development, Inc. Is seeking **Preschool Teacher** for Greenville Head Start Center. Must have Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or related field And required 45-Hours DCF training. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahatchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org. Closing Date: February 15, 2013 DFWP/MF/7-4/EOE C03MA001.

1/23, 1/30, c

FLORIDA PRESS SERVICES, INC. STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED PROGRAM

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR 1/28/2013 THROUGH 2/3/2013

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ADOPT: Childless teacher (33) and devoted husband (37) wish to adopt; promise unconditional love, opportunities. Expenses Paid. Kristie/Gabe. Attorney Adam Sklar, Bar#0150789. 1-888-387-9290 TOLL FREE.

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LEGALS

Notice of Sale Pursuant to Chapter 83, Part IV
Under the Authority of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Section 83.805 the described below has been seized for nonpayment of rent and other accrued expenses. The property consists primarily of household & personal goods in units rented by: **Bridgett Jackson, Jacqueline Holmes, Terrisha Evans, Shaquitha Whitfield and Leroy James.** The property will be sold at auction to the highest bidder as provided by the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Section 83.806. The sale will be held Saturday February 2, 2013, at the Madison Mini Storage, 1098 E. U.S. Hwy 90, in Madison, Florida. For further information call 850-973-2008.

1/23, 1/30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2011-CA-000432

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-22,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JONATHAN S. FERRELL, ET AL.
Defendants

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Please publish in THE MADISON COUNTY COURIER)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 13, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-000432, of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in and for Madison County, Florida. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-22 (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is Plaintiff and JONATHAN S. FERRELL, KITTY FERRELL FKA KITTY SMITH NKA KITTY PAULRENE SMITH ATLANTIC CREDIT AND FINANCE INC., AS ASSIGNEE OF HSBC CARD SERVICES, are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the FRONT DOOR of the Courthouse, 1098 E. U.S. Highway, Madison, at 11:00 a.m., on the 19th day of February, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LAND SITUATE IN MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA, VIZ:

AN UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST IN AND TO THE FOLLOWING:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN WESTENCE NORTH, 09°39' EAST (D.O.T. BEARING BASE) 1129.38' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE THENCE NORTH 09° 53' EAST 187.24', THENCE NORTH 89° 49'20" EAST 464.0' TO THE CENTERLINE OF A PROPOSED 30' ROADWAY, THENCE SOUTH 09° 53' WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 188.26', THENCE LEAVING SAID ROADWAY, RUN SOUTH 89° 56' 58" WEST 464.0' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

If you are a person, with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation to participate should call the ADA Coordinator, Jacquetta Bradley, P.O. Box 1569, Lake City, FL 32066, 386-719-7428, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired call (800) 955-8770.

Dated this 27th day of January 2013.

(SEAL)

TIM SANDERS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By *Jacquetta Bradley*
As Deputy Clerk

Any person claiming an interest in the property from the sale, shall file a claim with the property owner as of the date of the sale. Failure to file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

1/30, 2/6

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

LOANCARE, A DIVISION OF FNF SERVICING, INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ANDREW S. ROBINSON; AMY C. ROBINSON; JOHNNY P. HARRELL; EDWARD K. HARRELL; ELAINE H. HENDERSON; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(To be Published in Madison County Courier)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment dated November 13, 2012 entered in Civil Case No.: 40-2012-CA-000128, of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in and for Hamilton County, Florida, wherein LOANCARE, A DIVISION OF FNF SERVICING, INC., is Plaintiff, and ANDREW S. ROBINSON; AMY C. ROBINSON; JOHNNY P. HARRELL; EDWARD K. HARRELL; ELAINE H. HENDERSON; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are Defendants.

Tim Sanders, the Clerk of Court shall sell to the highest bidder for cash at 11:00 a.m., the Madison County Courthouse, 125 S.W. Range Avenue, Madison, Florida 32340 on the 14th day of February, 2013 the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN LOTS 71 AND 72 OF YELLOW PINE HEIGHTS REPLAT AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK ONE, PAGE "Y" OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 72, SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING, FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING RUN THENCE SOUTH 40 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH FARLEIGH DRIVE 100.00 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVE TO THE RIGHT, THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 70.0 FEET; THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 82 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 00 SECONDS FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 100.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENT, THENCE RUN NORTH 49 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 68.41 FEET TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF THE VALDOSTA SOUTHERN RAILROAD, THENCE RUN NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY ON A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE WEST, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 2034.86 FEET; THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 04 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 21 SECONDS; FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 150.56 FEET, THENCE LEAVING SAID RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY RUN SOUTH 56 DEGREES, 40 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST 159.24 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH A 2086 SCOTTHILT HOME, VIN# SB8G1A310500809 A/B

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After 60 days, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on January 24, 2013.

TIM SANDERS
CLERK OF THE COURT
By *Roseanna Johnson*
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, the provision of certain assistance. Individuals with a disability who require special accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator, 173 NE Hernandez Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055, (386) 719-7428, within two (2) business days of receipt of notice. Individuals who are hearing impaired should call (800) 955-8771. Individuals who are voice impaired should call (800) 955-8770.

1/30, 2/6

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Industrial Electrician
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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Madison Lodge Holds Installation Ceremony



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Emerald Greene, January 7, 2013

The installation of officers for Madison Lodge #11 F. & A.M. was recently held. Shown front row, left to right: Richard Terry, Worshipful Master; Jason Stanley, Senior Warden; Jim Stanley, Secretary; Alfred Welch, Treasurer; Keith Williams, Senior Deacon; Coleman Raines, Senior Steward; and Rick Davis, Junior Steward. Back row, left to right: Lee Fer Don, Chaplain; Brent Whitman, Marshal; and Phillip Wilkerson, Tyler. Not pictured: Roy Hibbs, Senior Deacon, and Jim Catron, Junior Warden.

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The 168th installation of Madison Lodge #11 F&A.M. was held on Monday, Jan. 7, at the Lodge in Madison.

Approximately 60 people attended the meeting, which was open to Masons, their families and

friends.

The following positions were installed:

Worshipful Master – Richard Terry

Senior Warden – Jason Stanley

Junior Warden – Jim Catron

Secretary – Jim Stanley

Treasurer – Alfred Welch

Senior Deacon – Roy Hibbs

Junior Deacon – Keith Williams

Senior Steward – Coley Raines

Junior Steward – Rick Davis

Chaplain – Lee Fer Don

Tyler – Phillip Wilkerson

Marshal – Brent Whitman

Defending Their Rights

Lee Peters retires after a long career of service

Courtesy of Bryant Thigpen, *Suwannee Democrat*
bryant.thigpen@gafnews.com

Lee Peters, Jr. may have retired as the assistant public defender for the Third Judicial Circuit and division chief after 24 years. But he isn't slowing down.

Peters was hired by former Public Defender Dennis Roberts (see related story, this page) when he took office in 1989 and remained on staff until Roberts' recent retirement.

"I came into office with Dennis and I left with Dennis," Peters said.

In January of 1968, Peters began attending Florida State University and graduated in June of 1971. He then went to work for the Federal Department of Law Enforcement as an agent with the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives division.

"When I was with ATF, I spent much time in the courtroom and got an understanding of the law. That's what lit the fire," he said.

After 10 years with ATF, Peters enrolled at the University of Florida's School of Law in 1982. Two years later, Peters graduated and accepted his first position as an assistant state attorney. Peters was responsible for handling cases in four counties including Lafayette County where he met Roberts.

"While I was working as an assistant state attorney, Dennis was an assistant public defender. I often opposed Dennis in Mayo and that's how we met," he laughed.

When Roberts was elected as the public defender in 1989, Peters was the first person Roberts hired outside of the State Attorney's Office.

"That's when it came full circle," said Peters.

Since Peters began practicing law, he has been involved in about 2,500 cases, not counting simple or juvenile cases. Peters has stood before a jury over 200 times, 190 of those under the office of public defender.

Peters admits that his success in the courtroom stems from his ability to communicate effec-

tively. "When you're standing before the jury, you've got to have something that they can wrap their minds around," he said.

"The public defender system we have today stems from the Wainwright vs. Gideon case of 1963," Peters said. "In our small corner of the world, bad things are going to happen to good people. And if the government is going to take away your liberty, you have the right to have an attorney defend you."

For the past 24 years, Peters and Roberts have worked hand-in-hand defending people in the seven counties the public defender's office serves, including Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee - serving those who typically couldn't afford an attorney.

"I'm going to miss working with the people that I've worked with for so many years. Dennis Roberts is the best boss I've ever had in my lifetime," Peters said.

Peters officially retired from the state of Florida on Jan. 1, but has no plans of slowing down.

"I had a week off, and then my son (local attorney Ryan Peters) called me and asked me if I could go to Lake Butler and handle a criminal case for him, and I've been on the road ever since," he laughed.

Peters plans to continue working at his son's law firm at the Live Oak and Lake City offices.

Peters comes from a military family and has defended people's rights both in the courtroom and on the battlefield.

"When I was in high school, students were allowed to join the military while they were still in school, so I volunteered to join the military before they did the draft," said Peters.

He joined the United States Navy Reserves in 1964, and was deployed to Vietnam in 1965 for two years. He ended his military career as a major military police corp in 1995 after giving 31 years of service, 15 years in the Navy Reserves followed by

16 years in the US Army Reserves.

All three of his children, Tammy, Lee III and Ryan, have served in the US military.

"I'm very proud of my children," said Peters. "Only one percent of the population serves in the military and I'm thankful for my children, and all of those who fight for our freedom."

Since Peters is now officially retired, he hopes to spend more time working with the American Legion.

"They are a very active group and they dedicate themselves to helping veterans. As I said, only one percent of the population goes into the military. We require these young people to go to war," said Peters. "And when they get damaged and they come home, we seem to forget about them. I want to help that one percent."

"You got a choice," he said. "You can wear out or rust out. I plan to keep going."

Even though Peters' status says he's retired, he will continue to be a warrior for the people.

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The Madison County Carrier

January 30, 2013
Section B



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, January 17, 2013

The Dosta Bluegrass Connection perform special music for the crowd.

Path
of Faith

Crowd Of 152 Enjoys Fellowship Meeting At New Home

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The men of New Home Baptist Church hosted a men's brotherhood meeting on Thursday, Jan. 17, at the fire department in the New Home community.

A special thing about the meeting was that women were invited to the meeting, so men were able to bring their wives, daughters and girlfriends to the event.

A delicious steak dinner was served and 152 people partook of the feast, which also featured baked potatoes, beans and

rolls.

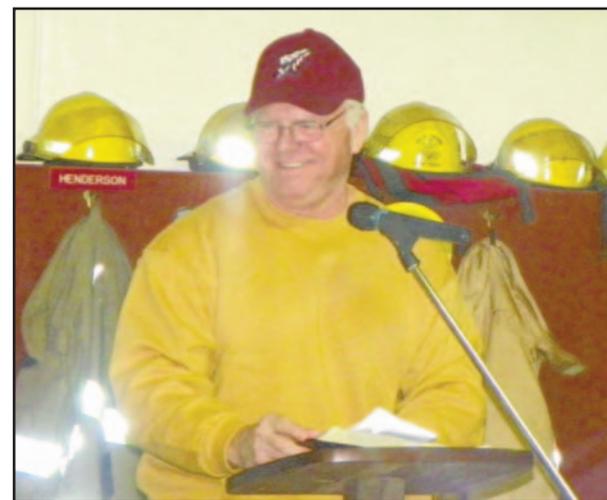
Dosta Bluegrass Connection performed special music and the guest speaker for the evening was former Greenville resident and Florida Highway Patrolman, Greg Burnley. Burnley shared his near-death experience with those in attendance.

The next men's brotherhood meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 21, at the New Home Volunteer Fire Department, located on Mosley Hall Road. Men wishing to attend should RSVP to Kevin Andrews at (850) 508-2030.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, January 17, 2013

Kevin Andrews, coordinator of the men's brotherhood meetings for New Home Baptist, addresses the crowd.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, January 17, 2013

Former Greenville resident and Florida Highway Patrolman Greg Burnley addresses the crowd at the New Home Volunteer Fire Department.

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Women of the Bible: Hannah

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Perhaps what people remember most about Hannah is that, because of a promise to God, she gave up her son, Samuel, to be raised and trained in the temple by the priest Eli.

Hannah's story, one of great faith and fortitude, is told in 1 Samuel, chapter one. Like most adult women in the patriarchal society of 11th century B.C. Israel, Hannah lived under the authority of her husband Elkanah, whom she had to share with his second wife, Peninnah. Also, in a time when women were chiefly valued for their ability to bear children – in fact, it was a wife's sacred duty to produce children, especially sons, to carry on the family lineage – Hannah was childless, while Peninnah had perhaps as many as ten children.

Ancient Israelite society saw children as a sign of God's blessing; having many children equaled favor with God. Similarly, no children equaled disfavor. Perhaps, even, it was a sign of a curse by God for some hidden sin or flaw. If the Lord Himself had "closed the womb" of a barren woman, the reasoning went, He must have had a reason. Thus, with

very few exceptions, the identity of a woman was contingent upon being a wife, and even more so, a mother, and she was defined by her relationship to her husband and her capacity to bear children.

We can see the relative position of men and women in the first two verses, when Elkhana the Levite is introduced by name, place of origin, and details of his patriarchal ancestry going back four generations. By contrast, all we are told about his wives is that he had two: one named Peninnah and one named Hannah, and that Peninnah had children, while Hannah had none.

As the story opens, Elkanah, being a very devout man, has taken Hannah, Peninnah, and Peninnah's flock of children on their required annual pilgrimage to the temple at Shiloh to present their animal sacrifices

to the Lord. As the custom dictates, a portion of the sacrifice is burned, another portion is given to the priests of the temple, and the rest is given back to the patriarch, who divides the meat among his family members. In Elkanah's case, he always gives his first wife Hannah a double portion, "*For he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb.*" (1 Samuel 1:5).

Hannah is at a low point of her life; the humiliation and grief of childlessness is nothing short of devastating, and although Elkanah seems a kind and considerate enough husband, he's also somewhat dense; for one thing, he seems to have no clue that Peninnah frequently drives Hannah to tears by tormenting her about her childlessness, and two, even if Peninnah is ...*Story cont. on Page 6B...*

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The Pulpit

**By Rev. Delbert Redditt
Faith Baptist Church**

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Psalms 5: 7

Perhaps one of the hardest lessons to learn in life is that of humility. Many of us tend to have an inflated opinion of our-

selves and while we may not be an arrogant braggart we still tend to make ourselves the center of the universe. In order to combat the excessive emphasis upon self-focus, we need to take a look at the bigger picture and realize that it is God who is our creator that has provid-

ed us with our talents and abilities and the opportunities to grow and succeed.

Therefore we need to assume a position of humility and offer up prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord.

Likewise, we should also avoid the other extreme, that being self deprecation. We are each fearfully and wonderfully made. God has given us gifts and talents, which we can

use and develop. If we feel we do not measure up then I would suggest instead of feeling depressed take steps to correct that situation.

The first step is prayer, which is echoed in this verse. Then seek the resources to accomplish your goal and finally move forward. For you see the love of self can take any one of two extremes. You can

either be arrogant or have an inferiority complex but either way you are focusing excessively upon yourself. Today honestly examine your thoughts and actions, focus upon God and his perfect will for your life and take the steps necessary to accomplish those things he would have you to do.

Remember to focus upon God with a humble spirit. May God richly bless your day!




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NEWSPAPER
COLUMN

by RONNIE McBRAYER



More Than We Can Stand

it comes to the message of reconciliation.

“God is ready to forgive and restore all who will come,” he has preached for decades now. When asked how he would summarize his theology and his work, in Campbell’s iconoclastic style he answered, “We are all bastards; but God loves us anyway.”

This belief was put to the test during the racial violence and upheaval of the 1960s. One of Will’s best friends, a seminary student and Civil Rights worker named Jonathan Daniels, was shot and killed by an Alabama sheriff. The sheriff was acquitted by “a jury of his peers.”

Will retreated to Fairhope, Alabama, to grieve and rage, taking refuge at the home of friend P.D. East. East was an agnostic newspaper editor who wanted racial equality as well, but he was not an adherent to the Christian gospel. So while Will stalked around the house, angrily grieving Daniel’s death and the uncorrected injustice against him, P.D. confronted Campbell directly:

“Come on, Brother,” P.D. said. “Let’s talk about your definition of the gospel. Was Jonathan a bastard?” Will responded that he was sure that everyone is a sinner in one way or another, but that Jonathan was one of the sweetest, gentlest

guys he had ever known.

P.D. persisted: “But was he a bastard? Now, that’s your word, not mine. That’s a pretty tough word. I know, ‘cause I am one; a real one. My mama wasn’t married to my daddy. Now, by God, you tell me right now, yes or no: Was Jonathan Daniel a bastard?” Will finally said, “Yes, Daniel was.”

P.D. East pulled his chair close to Will and just above a whisper asked, “Which one of those two bastards do you think God loves the most – Jonathan or that sheriff? Now, you’re the one who always told me about how simple the gospel is. Just answer the question: Which one of those two does God love the most?”

Here are Will Campbell’s words of response: “Suddenly, everything became clear. Everything. It was a revelation. I walked across the room and opened the blind, staring directly into the glare of the street light. And I began to whimper. But the crying was interspersed with laughter. It was a strange experience. I remember trying to sort out the sadness and the joy.

“Just what was I crying for, and what was I laughing for? Then this, too, became clear. I was laughing at ...*Story cont. on Page 5B...*



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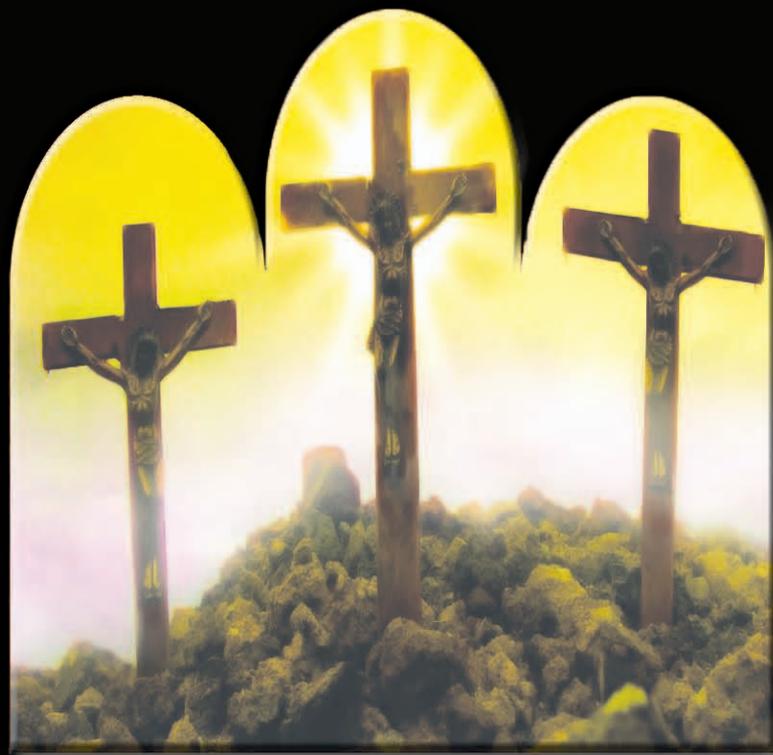
Story cont. from Page 4B

myself, at twenty years of a ministry which had become, without my realizing it...an attempted negation of Jesus...a theology of law and order and of denying the faith I professed to hold. That sheriff was indeed as loved by God as Jonathan Daniels. And if loved, forgiven. And if forgiven, reconciled.

“P.D. came and stood beside me, handing me his half-empty beer. The lesson was over. Class dismissed. But I had one last thing I had to say to the teacher: ‘P.D...damned if you ain’t made a Christian out of me. And I’m not sure I can stand it.’”

This is the category-exploding, boundary-breaking, world-upturning gospel: God’s grace trumps everything. God’s love welcomes all who will come. God’s forgiveness is no “respector of persons,” even those persons for whom we ourselves have little mercy. Yes, this is sometimes more than we can stand, but it is the no-compromise, no pulled-punches message of reconciliation.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in



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Lee First Baptist Opens Threads Of Love

By Kristin Finney

Greene Publishing, Inc.

Throughout the course of the year, there are many needs for some families. During the winter months, those needs increase dramatically. For some families, a warm coat can be a lifesaver. Lee First Baptist Church has opened Threads of Love for just that purpose. Threads of Love is a sort of like a consignment shop for the families of Madison County. They offer gently used seasonal clothes (i.e. jackets in the winter and shorts during the summer), shoes, blankets, sheets, towels and much more.

Threads of Love was began by the L.I.G.H.T. (Learning in God’s House Together) Sunday School Class at

Lee First Baptist Church. The group was trying to come up with a service that they could offer to help the community year round. Threads of Love has served the Lee community with coats, shoes and toys for Christmas.

The group at Threads for Love welcome donations of time or goods. If you are spring cleaning and have things that you no longer need, please call Marcia Webb at (850) 973-7124 or Channah

Galbraith at (850)973-0759. If you are interested in volunteering your time, feel free to come and help out on the first Thursday of each month.

Threads of Love is opened on the first Thursday of each month from 4-7p.m. They are located at Lee First Baptist Church in Lee in the Fellowship Hall. Please pass the word along about Threads of Love to anyone you know that might be in need.



Hannah

Story cont. from Page 2B

smart enough attack Hannah only behind his back, he seems woefully lacking in his ability to empathize with Hannah's despair. From his point of view, he already has the children he needs by Peninnah – we can infer as many as ten, from his reference to “ten sons” in 1 Samuel 1:8 – so what does Hannah have to worry about? Isn't having him as husband better than whole flock of children anyway? *You have me, so what's the problem? Who cares what the neighbors are saying, never mind all those stares in the marketplace, or the whispers in the temple.*

As a devout man, surely he is aware of his culture's view of a woman's role and how it judges a childless woman (and there is little doubt that he loves Hannah, because we are told so directly in the Scriptures); however, like many men in a male-dominated, patriarchal society, his ability to understand things from a woman's perspective is limited. He just cannot fathom what it means to be thought of as flawed and lacking in the eyes of both God and society, to deal with all those judgmental looks that question his very worth, or to be invalidated as a person by an inability to conceive a child.

And so, at their annual sacrifice at the Temple of Shiloh, he sees Hannah in despair, refusing to eat or

drink, and seems clueless that this is apparently one of Peninnah's favorite times to twist the knife.

As for Peninnah, what is her motivation for such vicious behavior? It is easy to dismiss it as just spite and hatefulness, but looking further at the society that had marginalized women to the point that their childbearing capacity was virtually all that mattered, and adding to it that Peninnah was a secondary wife, and therefore of lesser authority in the household anyway, we see something that looks like old-fashioned jealousy. As a wife who had borne her husband ten sons, she should have been the one basking in the glory of her husband's affections, and been at the pinnacle of womanhood. Yet, here she was, fulfilling that sacred wifely duty of bearing child after child, and there was the barren Hannah, still the apple of Elkanah's eye. As a further sting, we see in 1 Samuel 1:5, that apparently Elkanah wasn't very subtle about showing favoritism. Peninnah may have even felt threatened by this, since, at that time, there wasn't much else a woman could do besides bear children.

It is this tangle of intense emotions and family dynamics that leads to Hannah's leaving the family feast to pour out her heart unto the Lord in the temple, where she makes a daring and desperate pact with Him. Daring, because she doesn't consult with her husband beforehand, and desperate, because she wants a child so badly, she would be willing to then part with that child, turn him over to the temple priests, and dedicate him to God's service as soon as

he is old enough.

A short time later, Hannah gives birth to a long-awaited son, and the rest of her story is a portrait of her strength and faith. Having given her promise to God, she keeps her word, and when Samuel is still very young (probably about three) she takes him back to the temple at Shiloh.

After three years of bonding with the child she had wanted for so long, it must have been tempting to try to renegotiate her promise – after all, it was a promise made in desperation. Surely God would understand how very much she loves this child, and accept something else, some other kind of sacrifice – but Hannah does not renegotiate anything. It must have been a long, heart-breaking journey back to Shiloh.

As the story goes, Hannah was rewarded for her faith with five more children, but she never forgot her firstborn son, whom she saw only once a year when she and her family traveled to temple and she would bring him a gift of a brand-new coat.

Samuel, the first-born son of a woman whose strength, devotion and faith in God would eventually earn her the title of Prophetess, grew up to become a great leader of Israel. He was the last of the Judges, the first of the Major Prophets, and the one who would anoint the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David...all because of a mother's promise that was kept, and her faith in God her sacrificial decision was right one, and that it would all be for His glory.

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A Woman's Pregnancy Center Hosting Breakfast Feb. 2

Thank you for your past and continued support of A Women's Pregnancy Center! We wanted to let you, our friends and partners, know that we are gearing up for the 18th annual WALK FOR LIFE held this year on Saturday, March 9 at Maclay Gardens and we need your help!

This event raises funds that allow us to continue to counsel abortion-minded women and their partners, save unborn lives, and present the Gospel.

Would you please consider joining us in the walk and sharing the walk information with your church? We call our church "point people" liaisons and are hosting a special breakfast to go over all the details and commitments.

The breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 2, at the Center located at 919 W. Pensacola St. in Tallahassee. This time of fellowship will allow us to get acquainted with each other and share some great marketing tips to encourage your congregation's WALK participation.

Last year the Holy Spirit moved 112 moms who were at risk for abortion to choose life. In addition 50 made a profession of faith- all made possible in part by your friendship and support. THANK YOU!

Please save the date on your calendars and join us at the Center on February 2 for the Liaison Breakfast at 8:30 and orientation from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please RSVP to Cheri West at Cheri@awpc.cc if you plan to join us for breakfast on February 2nd.

If you're not able to attend the walk, but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the lifesaving work of the Center, please click [here](#). May God richly bless you as you spread the word about seeing babies born and mothers and fathers being born again.

For the little ones,

Jamie Brown
Executive Director

P.S. Please don't forget to join us for breakfast on Saturday, February 2nd from 8:30am to 10:00am. Please RSVP to Cheri West at Cheri@awpc.cc.



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Mission Team Sought For Trip To St. Vincent

By Jacob Bembry

Greene Publishing, Inc.

Rev. Timmy Dyke, pastor of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, is looking for 12-15 people to be on a mission team, going to St. Vincent in the Caribbean.

The mission team will do a backyard Bible club, host a revival and hold a community day type event.

The team would leave the United States on July 8 and return on July 15.

"All team members need to be willing to share their testimony and be actively involved," Dyke said.

The cost for the team will be around \$1,700 per person.

For more information, please call Dyke at (850) 464-8107.

The Man Behind "Keeping The Faith"

Ronnie McBrayer was born and raised in the foothills of the North Georgia Appalachians and claims he barely survived the fire-and-brimstone instruction of his hard shell Baptist-reared childhood. But in the great comedy of God, Ronnie has spent his adulthood in Christian ministry, preaching in and protesting against; loving and leaving; running away from and returning to the church. The faith he is trying to keep isn't in organized religion, however. It is in Jesus.

Ronnie has been a pastor, chaplain, leader in social justice ministries, and a writer. He holds degrees in Christian Education and Theology, with post-graduate studies in Bio-Ethics and Critical Incident Stress Management. His post-

Katrina relief work with Habitat for Humanity was featured by the CBS Evening News and the New York Times. McBrayer's weekly newspaper column, "Keeping the Faith," began as a devotional article for his local newspaper. It is now nationally syndicated in more than seventy outlets with a circulation of more than six million readers.

He leads "A Simple Faith" in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida and is the author of multiple books and publications including *Leaving Religion, Following Jesus*, *The Jesus Tribe*, and the upcoming *How Far is Heaven?* For more information or if you are interested in making arrangements for Ronnie to speak to your group visit www.ronniemcbrayer.me.



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WHO SAID THAT?

By Rusty Wright

“Who said, ‘Neither a borrower nor a lender be?’” asked Chris Matthews on his MSNBC-TV program *Hardball*.

Matthews had been discussing evangelical Christians’ economic views with CBN News correspondent David Brody. In response, Brody did not name the quote’s source, but playfully protested being asked a “church history” question.

Shakespeare may or may not have been flattered. In *Hamlet*, Polonius offers the famous advice to his son Laertes.

Given *Hardball*’s rapid-fire nature, Brody’s misattribution of the quote to church history is understandable. Matthews, with his heartfelt and penetrating style, speaks 200 words per minute – with gusts up to 400 – and interrupts often. The crossfire could momentarily confuse anyone.

Misattributed Sayings

But famous sayings often get misattributed. Materials at an annual national student leadership conference in Washington, DC, regularly attributed to Thomas Jefferson the aphorism, “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Now, Jefferson may have agreed; he mistrusted strong centralized government and advocated states’ rights. But Lord Acton, the 19th Century British statesman, scholar and aristocrat – born eight years after Jefferson died – is the actual source.

When I noted the problem, the conference moderator readily agreed to edit their materials. But I had erred, too. Acton’s actual wording: “power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” [Emphasis mine.]

“Cleanliness is next to godliness”

Even experts goof. In Dallas’ Cotton Bowl in 1972, I remember Billy Graham passionately telling assembled thousands that the Bible says “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Yet, Graham’s website (correctly) attributes the statement to 18th Century minister John Wesley.

In fact, many popular sayings get misattributed to the Bible. How about, “This above all – to thine own self be true”? The Bard again, Polonius to Laertes, a few lines after “Neither a borrower nor a lender be.”

What about “No man is an island”? English poet John Donne.

“Money is the root of all evil.” That must be biblical, right? Close, but the actual biblical text contains significant qualifications: “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil....” [Emphasis mine, again.]

“God helps those...?”

Here’s a common one. A university administrator once told me his life philosophy was summed up “by that famous statement, found so many times in the Bible: ‘God helps those who help themselves.’” White House press secretary Jay Carney also once attributed this statement to the Bible. Forms of it exist among Aesop’s Fables and in Benjamin Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, but it’s not in the Bible. I was surprised to learn it actually contradicts a core biblical teaching.

Certainly biblical authors advocate acting responsibly. But on the crucial issue of how humans can connect with God and gain strength for responsible living, it’s not human effort that counts, I discovered to my chagrin. It’s a free “gift.”

Now, this violated my sense of justice. It seemed only fair that my good deeds should earn me a place in heaven. Then I learned that trying to earn eternal life was something like trying to swim from California to Hawaii. Some people will get farther than others, but no one would make it on their own. No matter how good I tried to be, the moral/spiritual gap between my behavior/character and God’s remained infinite.

Apt Words

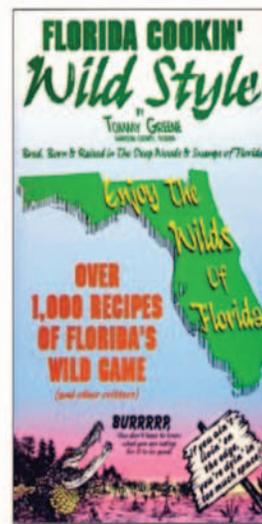
That’s why, the biblical documents indicate, “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us,” bridging the infinite chasm that we humans never could.

I guess the common saying might better read, “God offers to help those who recognize their need...and ask.”

What a difference. I realized that it’s important to learn not only “who said that,” but also what the speaker/writer actually said and meant.

Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. www.RustyWright.com

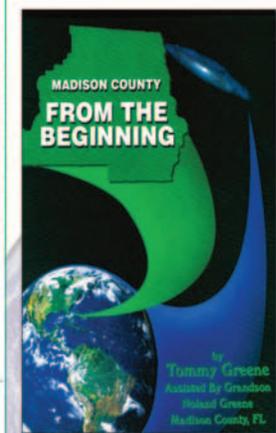
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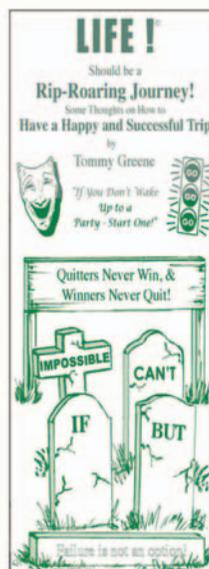
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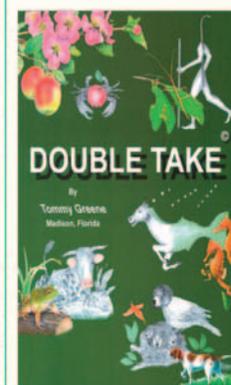


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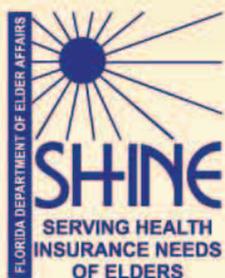
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Lee Worship Center To Host Revival

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Evangelist Rodney Watts, of Perry, will preach a revival at Lee Worship Center beginning Wednesday, Feb. 6, and running through Sunday, Feb. 10.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. each evening Wednesday through Saturday. Sunday morning service will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m.

There will be great singing during each service.

Rev. Richard B. Sauls is the senior pastor of the church and Rev. Charles R. Lasseter is the pastor emeritus.

The church is located at 471 SE Magnolia Drive in Lee.

Lee Worship Center To Celebrate 28 Years With Open Mic Gospel Sing And Potluck Supper

Lee Worship Center will celebrate 28 years of services with a potluck supper and gospel sing on Saturday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m.

There are a lot of great singers in the Lee and Madison areas. If anyone can sing or play an instrument, please call (850) 971-4135 or come early and get a time slot.

There will be great fun, fellowship and food.

A love offering will be received and funds will go towards building a wheelchair ramp and putting in handicapped restrooms.

Funds may also be donated at the Madison County Community Bank to the Lee Worship Center account.



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