

Arrest Made For Yellow Pine Burglary



Michael Fiffia
Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart reports that back in January, deputies responded to a burglary alarm of the Yellow Pine Truck Stop located at 1407 East Base Street. Deputies discovered the business had been burglarized and the suspect had fled the scene. Deputies collected several items of evidentiary value to be submitted to a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) crime lab in an attempt to identify the suspect.

of evidence for a suspect from the evidentiary items submitted. On June 4, a warrant to search the person of one Michael Deangelo Fiffia was executed for final standard comparisons. On Aug. 26, the final comparisons were confirmed as the suspect, Michael Deangelo Fiffia. A capias for the arrest of Michel Deangelo Fiffia was requested from the Third Circuit State Attorney's Office.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, a warrant for the arrest of Michael Deangelo Fiffia was executed while he was incarcerated at the Madison County Jail on other unrelated charges.

The arrest warrant was for the following:

1. Burglary of structure
2. Grand theft
3. Criminal Mischief
4. Circuit Violation of Probation

Man Arrested For Trespass After Warning

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A Madison man was arrested shortly after midnight on Friday, Nov. 22, and charged with trespass after warning.

According to a Madison Police Department report, Sgt. Chris Cooks made contact with Benjamin Wertz at an apartment building.

Cooks ran information on Wertz and discovered that a trespass warning for the entire complex had been issued to him.

Wertz was placed under arrest and transported to the Madison County Jail.



Benjamin Wertz



Photos submitted by Pat Lightcap, November 24, 2013

FIRE ENGULFS HOME

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A blaze engulfed a home Sunday evening, Nov. 24, causing the loss of the home and heat damage to a home next to it.

According to Madison Fire & Rescue Chief Bruce Jordan, the department was dispatched to a fire at the home of Agnes Brown on Gillislee Street.

A combined total of

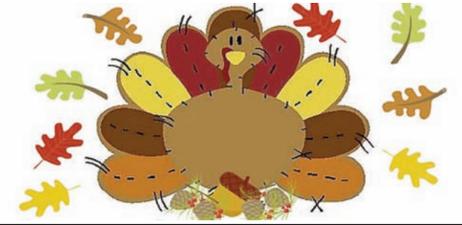
\$50,000 in damage was done to the Brown house and to the vacant house next door.

Jordan said it is undetermined at this time how the fire started, but that it is possibly from an electrical problem in the home.

The Pinetta Volunteer Fire Department, the Lee Volunteer Fire Department and the New Home Volunteer Fire Department assisted MFR at the scene.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner Set



By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A community Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the Madison County Senior Citizens Center located at the intersection of Harvey Greene Drive and SR 14 South, in Madison, on Thursday, Nov. 28.

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

Proposed Parking Project On Range Street

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A block along the west side of SW Range Avenue, between Dade Street and Macon Streets, could see some improvement in both parking and pedestrian safety, according to a proposed sidewalk project submitted to the City Commission by Community Planning Director Chuck Hitchcock.

In a memo to the city commission, Hitchcock stated that both he and Madison Police Chief Gary Calhoun have safety concerns about there being no established sidewalk along this stretch of Range Street, and that there is no structured, clearly marked parking in the area. All of the merchants located in that area had been contacted and had indicated

that they were in favor of something being done.

The proposed drawings submitted show 11 new angled parking spaces created, along with a five-foot-wide sidewalk, with a notation not to make the sidewalk curb so high because it could damage the front ends of automobiles. It also indicates two new proposed streetlights.

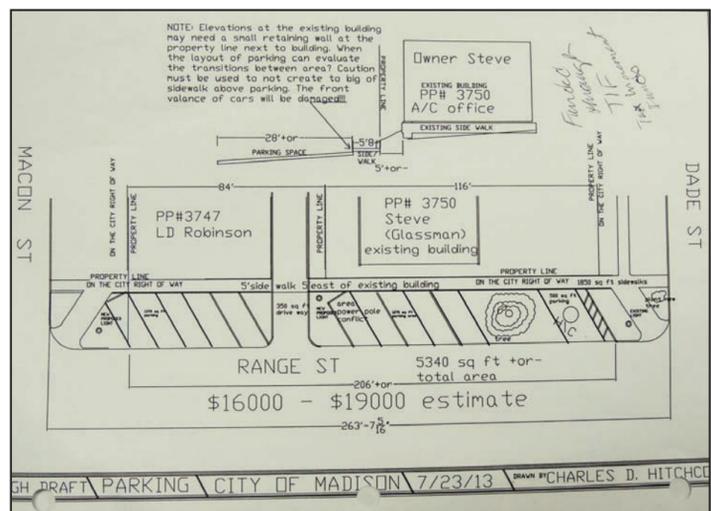
Hitchcock believes that the proposal will make the area look a lot better as well as promote business and enhance pedestrian safety.

The project would cost between \$16,000 and \$19,000, depending on obstacles encountered underground, and would be funded through the Tax Increment Fund (TIF).



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, November 20, 2013

This area of SW Range Street, between Dade and Macon Streets, has no clearly marked off parking spaces, and currently, cars park any which way they can. The proposed improvement will provide clearly marked parking spots along the side of Range Street, and a five-foot-wide sidewalk with a curb for pedestrian safety. The proposed design will also preserve the giant oak tree seen here.



This schematic shows the area as it currently is in the small drawing at the top; below it, the larger drawing shows the proposed improvements, including where parking spaces and the new sidewalk would be placed. Range Street is at the bottom, Dade Street is on the right and Macon Street is on the left.

Index			
2 Sections, 24 Pages			
Viewpoints	2A	School	10-11A
Around Madison	3-7, 14A	Classifieds	12A
Health	8A	Legals	13A
Black Friday	9A	Path of Faith	Section B

Local Weather			
Wed 11/27	50/28		Mostly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Thu 11/28	54/30		A few clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Fri 11/29	62/36		Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sat 11/30	66/43		Fleeting sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

National Security

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION



Joe Boyles
Guest Columnist

I thought it might be interesting and informative to print the first president's Thanksgiving Proclamation rendered in his first year of office. In the wake of political correctness and revisionist history, it is important to understand how this holiday was viewed, literally by the father of our nation. The writing style is 18th Century, but you can discern the meaning.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protec-

tion of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions--to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.
George Washington

Madison Church Of Christ

Service Times:
Sunday
Bible Study - 10 a.m.
Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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Emerald's Gem Box

Happy 21st Birthday, Cheltsie



Emerald Greene
Publisher

Today (November 27) marks the 21st birthday of my oldest daughter, Cheltsie Elizabeth Kinsley.

To say the least, my life changed dramatically 21 years ago today. At the age of 23, I became a first-time mother. Everything about her was so exciting and yet so scary. I was so afraid of doing something wrong and hurting her.

As all parents know, those fears never really leave us. As our children grow, we too have to learn new things and cross new obstacles, with them. The fears of doing things wrong are still present in so many aspects of our lives with them.



I sometimes watch Cheltsie now and truly cannot believe that it has been 21 years. It seems like just yesterday.....

I could not be more proud of the young lady that Cheltsie has become. Her moral values, her Christian standards, her work ethics and her dedication to her family and friends are all so astounding.

So on this very special day, I would like to say, "Happy Birthday, Cheltsie! I Love You and I Am So Very Proud Of You!"

I'm so glad God gave you to me - 21 years ago!!!

Until thensee you around the town.

Searching For Ambrosia

Thanksgiving- An Inventory Of Blessings



Rose Klein
Columnist

Every year at Thanksgiving, there are always things that come to mind when giving thanks, but this season I have found myself grumbling instead of being thankful. The closer it gets to the actual day when I ceremonially voice what I am thankful for, I decided I needed to think about the many blessings I really do have instead of all the negative things I've been focusing on. When I began this list of thankfulness, the thought of one blessing seemed to immediately bring to mind several more, and before I knew it, my list of complaints looked very small.

My list is not written out like a "top 10" in any particular order, and definitely not inclusive, but more like random musings to readjust my thinking. Inevitably the "grumbles" will strike again but when they do, maybe I can pull my list out so that I can refocus and consider how thankful I should be a little more often.

Grace and forgiveness, love, generosity, chocolate, friends who cook for me, warm fuzzy boots and gloves on a cold day, a husband who tries, cell phones and computers to help me stay connected, friends and family who will drive long distances to see me, a job, a house with heat and air, my health, freedom,

woods full of trees where I can walk my dogs, memories (even if they are sad), the ability to walk-speak-smell-hear-dance-use my hands and feet-and taste, dogs who don't mind snuggling, my Mom living close, sugar (even if it is "bad"), my mind, fresh eggs, recipes that are handed down and come with a great story, coffee with lots of cream, my new camera, perfume, good music, movies, gardening, clean sheets, my Jeep (even if gas is too high!), water to drink, a hot shower, rain, snow (even if I don't see it here), home-grown tomatoes, sweet watermelon, summer blackberries, laughter, gentle prodding, the long-awaited healthy pregnancy of a close friend, electricity, people in service positions to keep me and my home safe, toilet paper, answered prayer, strangers who remind me they are just people I haven't gotten to know YET, butterflies and dragonflies, any animal that lets me photograph them without hurting me, cheese, the scent and beauty of flowers, vacations, Raisin Bran and soymilk, google, medicine, good dreams, books that I can still read without a screen, really good vacuum cleaners that picks up dog hair the size of tumble weeds, peanut butter, waking up this morning and a maximum word count on this column that forces me to stop writing, because without it, I could go on and on, and on.

I hope each and every one of you have a great holiday, friends and family to help you celebrate, plenty of good food (no matter what that food is) and a list of blessings of your own that you can be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving!

AROUND MADISON COUNTY



World News
By Rose Klein



Donald & Doris Bishop

Were married December 20, 1963.

Their family invites you to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.



Please join them on December 7th

from 2-4 p.m.

Faith Baptist Church

Fellowship Hall

1135 East US 90

Madison, Florida 32340

Kangaroo Meat May Soon Hop Into China

In Australia, Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce and the Chinese are discussing the growth of China's booming middle class and rising appetite for red meat. Joyce is encouraging the Chinese to export kangaroo meat as a solution. Wang Jun owns a small restaurant in Beijing and says he would be willing to try the meat. "Why not? As long as it is delicious," Wang said. Chinese meat staples are beef, pork and chicken, but they will also eat cat, rat and dog meat, believing the meat to have medicinal qualities. Not everyone, however, is as adventurous. Liu Xinxin, a 21-year-old student from Beijing said, "How could we lay our chopsticks on such cute animals?" Kangaroo meat sells in Australia for about \$8.50 per pound, less than beef, but would be promoted in China as a high protein, low-fat exclusive food item with health benefits. Macro Meats, Australia's largest processor of kangaroo, has partnered with New Hope Group Ltd., one of China's largest agribusiness operators, to woo customers and project exclusivity by limiting supply. Ray Borda, the founder and managing director of Macro Meats said, "Our strategy will see us place kangaroo only in high-end butchers, not in supermarkets."

Home Toilets Now Required For Indian Politicians

In Patna, India, the government announced politicians would not be allowed to run for office unless they have toilets in their homes. Officials said the rules were made to promote healthy sanitation habits and would help Bihar reach its goal of becoming an "open-defecation free" state by 2022. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made the announcement on "World Toilet Day" that each household in the state would be given \$160 for home toilet installation and that government officials would be supervising the process. Kumar stated, "Open defecation is the source of nearly 90 percent of ailments. Its elimination would be a great service for the generation to come."

Bunny Hunt Consumes London's Social Media

In London, social media users by the thousands are searching for a stuffed rabbit belonging to three-year-old Ruby Stewart, who lost her stuffed companion on a weekend trip to London. Zoe Stewart, mother of Ruby, created "Find Mr. Rabbit" pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and posted the family's footsteps during the evening the beloved bunny disappeared. Stewart said her initial tweet about the missing rabbit has been retweeted more than 1,100 times and her Facebook post was shared nearly 3,000 times. "I think the whole of the U.K. is looking for him," Stewart said.

28th Annual Greenville Country Christmas Bake-Off Contest

Once again, it's time to show off your baking skills! The Greenville Country Christmas Committee invites you to enter the 28th Annual Bake-Off Contest.

A total of 15 cash prizes will be awarded. First place, second place and third place will be awarded in five different categories: Cakes, Cookies, Candies, Breads and Pies. First Place winners will receive a ribbon and \$15; Second Prize winners will receive a ribbon and \$10; and Third Prize winners will receive a ribbon and \$5.

All participants must have a Greenville address and entries must be marked with name, phone number and the title of their entry. Please submit your entry at the Greenville Madison Multi-Purpose Center on SW Grand Street in Greenville between 4-5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. Judging will begin at 5 p.m.



For more information, please contact Elesta Pritchett at (850) 948-7501 or Frances Norris at (850) 948-4900. The Greenville Country Christmas Committee would appreciate it if participants will leave their entries so that they may be enjoyed during refreshment time at 7 p.m.

35 In County

45 Out Of County

25 E-Pub Only

5 to add to existing

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Public Service Announcement
From The City of Madison

NATURAL GAS

A Gas leak could be dangerous but gas itself has no odor. So, for your safety, a smell like rotten eggs is added. If you smell such an odor:

1. Don't use the telephone.
2. Don't turn lights on or off, or use anything electrical.
3. Go outside right away.
4. Ask a neighbor to call the gas company.
5. Don't go back into the house until the gas company says it's safe.

PLEASE KEEP GAS SAFE.
(850) 973-5081 City Hall Working Hours
(850) 973-5075 Fire Dept. After Hours

City of Madison
Public Service Announcement
DAMAGE PREVENTION
Is Everyone's Responsibility

The City of Madison requests that you please call Sunshine at 1-800-432-4770 at least 48 hours before you dig, but not more than five days. Have information ready when calling: company name/address, contact person, phone number, location of dig site, extent and type of work, and date/start time of excavation. Wait 48 hours for underground facilities to be marked. Respect and protect the facility operator's marks. Dig with care! Always hand dig when within two feet on either side of any marked lines.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Thelma Holden Tuten

Thelma Holden Tuten, age 82, died Friday, November 22, 2013, at Madison Health and Rehab.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 24, 2013, at New Home Baptist Church with burial at San Pedro Cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to the service from 2-3 p.m. at the Church.

She was born in Sirmans and lived all her life in Madison. She was a homemaker and was a member of Madison Church of Christ.

She is survived by one son, Darrell Tuten (Sue) of Madison and one daughter, Jan Brannen of Titusville; three sisters: Virginia Earthman of Ponte Vedra, Nadine Cossar of Leesburg and Syble Bryant of Mississippi; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

You may send your condolences to the family by visiting our website www.beggsfuneral.com.

James Edwin Hendry

James Edwin Hendry, 80, of Madison, passed away Friday, November 22, 2013, at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013, at Beggs Funeral Home, Madison Chapel, with burial at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The family received friends from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, November 24, 2013 at Beggs Funeral Home, Madison.

He was born in Taylor County on May 3, 1933 to the late Roosevelt and Mae Hendry. He graduated Madison High School in 1951. He served as a Paratrooper in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict. He was Self-Employed most of his life as owner of Hendry IGA Grocery Store and Lake Front Grocery. He and his wife owned and operated The Rosary Florist for 25 years. After retirement in 1999, he worked part time with T. J. Beggs Jr. & sons Funeral Home until his death.

He was a charter and active member of Unity Baptist Church

where he served as treasurer and Sunday School teacher for many years.

He is survived by his wife: Norma Jean Townsend Hendry of 57 years; two sons: Troy Hendry (Jenny) of Madison, and Todd Hendry of St. Augustine, FL; two grandchildren: Sara Whitaker (Kyle) of Madison, and Andrew Hendry (fiancé, Magan Taylor) of Valdosta, Ga.; one sister: Genalee Huggins; brother-in-law: Herman Cherry, both of Madison; sister-in-law: Carolyn Hendry of Bryan, Texas; and many nieces and nephews. He was loved and will be missed by his family and many friends, especially his best friend Lucky.

Two brothers, Earl Hendry and Curtis Hendry, and a sister, Myrtle Cherry, predeceased him.

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

You may send your condolences to the family by visiting our website www.beggsfuneral.com.

Harold F. Mickel, Sr.

Harold F. Mickel, Sr., age 80, of Vienna, Georgia died Saturday, November 23, 2013, at his residence.

Born in Valdosta, Ga, he was the son of the late Hal Henry Mickel and Leo Hughes Mickel. He was a United States Navy veteran and retired from Bell South. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Edward Mickel, Marion Bush and Bobby Mickel.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian Carlo Mickel of Nashville, Ga; his sons, Donald Mickel of Vienna, Ga., Joe Mickel of Cochran, Ga. and Harold Mickel, Jr. of Valdosta, Ga; his sister, Frankie Jean Bush of Greenville, FL; 10 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at St. John Baptist Church in Greenville, Florida. Interment with military honors will follow at Concord Baptist Church Cemetery in Greenville.

The family greeted friends 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, November 26 at Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home in Vienna, Ga.

Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.brannen-nesmith.com.

Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Vienna, Ga has charge of arrangements.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 28
A community Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the Madison County Senior Citizens Center, located at the intersection of Harvey Greene Drive and SR 14 South, in Madison, on Thursday, Nov. 28. For more information, please call Timmy Dyke at (850) 464-8107.

December 4
The Tall Pines Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at noon in the Mill Conference Room in Clyattville, Ga. Ham, turkey and dressing will be furnished. Please bring a side dish.

December 7
Get in the spirit of Christmas with Cherry Lake United Methodist Church's Legends of Christmas Adventure Day on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9-11 a.m. Children, ages five and up, will enjoy learning about the Legends of Christmas and make Christmas crafts while glorifying the true meaning of Christmas. Festive refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

December 8
The First United Methodist Church of Madison will present the cantata "I Hear a Prophet Calling" during the 11:00 a.m. service at the church in Madison. Lynn Corbin is the director.

December 8
The First Baptist Church of Madison will present their Christmas cantata, "Come Messiah King," on Sunday, December 8, at 6 p.m. at the church in Madison.

December 11
The 55 Plus Club has a special treat in store for its December meeting; a performance by the Madison Boys Choir, under the direction of Rev. Marcus Hawkins. The club meets at noon on the second Wednesday of every month at the UMCM Center, 135 NW Dill Ave., on the corner of Dill and Colin Kelly Hwy. (Highway 145) near Hanson, about five miles north of town, for a free lunch provided by one of the member churches, and a guest speaker or musical performance. Come on out Wednesday, Dec. 11

at noon, and bring some friends to enjoy food, fellowship and some fine Christmas singing. For more information on the Club, or for directions to the UMCM Center contact Deborah Brown at (850) 929-4938.

December 13
SkillsUSA will hold a fundraiser on Friday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn. Funds will be used to help MCHS SkillsUSA compete in Regional and State Competitions. A grilled chicken plate will be available for \$6 in advance or \$7 at the lawn. It will include potato salad, green beans, roll and dessert. Sweet tea will be available for \$1. For tickets or questions, contact Paige Thomas at (386) 965-6771.

December 14
Greenville County Christmas at Haffye Hays Park in Greenville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Join in for fun, food, a parade, live entertainment and arts and crafts.

December 21
Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, 407 NE Mt. Zion Church Avenue in Cherry Lake, will hold a Hanson, Pinetta and Cherry Lake Community Christmas Outreach Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Meals will be delivered to community residents beginning at 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested in helping with the event is welcome to go serve with them. Anyone needing transported to the church or who is sick or shut-in can call Brother Johnnie Woods at (850) 929-4141. For more information, please call Savilla Murphy at (850) 929-4386.

December 22
Midway Baptist Church will present their Christmas cantata, "Glory to the Newborn King," on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 6 p.m. Midway Baptist Church is located at 338 SE Midway Church Road.

December 22
Midway Church of God will present their children's Christmas play on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. Midway Church of God is located at 2849 SE Midway Church Road in Lee.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

WWII Veteran Remembers Dachau

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

When New York University student George Aigen was drafted into the Army, he wasn't even old enough to drive. The Brooklyn, N.Y. native was only 18, and in New York, the driving age was 21. His father drove him to a large building where other young draftees were gathering, and hugged him goodbye.

"I still remember that day," says Aigen. "I didn't know if I'd ever see him again."

It was 1943, and half a world away, World War II was raging in Europe. In America, young men had to register for the draft at age 17, and carry their draft cards with them at all times. Being caught without it was cause for being arrested.

After bidding farewell to his father, Aigen found himself inside the huge building with several hundred other teenagers and young men. They were herded into a line for a cursory medical exam, consisting of a man with a stethoscope going down the line and checking heartbeats. He remembers going through other lines for blankets, shoes, dungarees and shirts, and then finally standing in another line as an officer went down the row assigning the young men to a branch of the military in a perfunctory one-two-three, count-off pattern. Their place in line determined whether the young men went into the Army, Navy or Marines, and that was how Aigen ended up in

the Army. For the Jewish teenager from Brooklyn, that was the beginning of a journey that would take him into the dark heart of the Nazi Third Reich, one that would leave him with powerful, haunting images of the two days he spent in the liberation of Dachau - images that he did not speak of publicly for over 60 years after he returned home.

During training at Ft. Smith, Ark., he learned the technical side of bridge-building, land mines and booby-traps, and on Nov. 6, 1944, with the U.S. Army 1269th Combat Engineers, Company B, 19-year-old Corporal Aigen landed just east of Marseilles, France.

His first night there, he slept in a tank track, because it was deep enough to offer protection from the bullets flying overhead.

Later, he remembers being in the foothills of the German Alps and the sound of mortar shells flying through the air. Within a week, he learned to tell just by listening where those shells were going and where they would land. Once, he recalls a shell landing only 14 paces from where he had been standing moments earlier.

The main assignment for the 1269th Combat Engineers was guarding other troops as they marched and fought their way toward Germany. At night, they would rig up a ring of protection around the camp with hand grenades and black trip wire; the grenades were removed from their cans,



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 6, 2013

WWII veteran George Aigen of Valdosta, and his wife Joyce, visited the Rotary Club of Madison, where George shared his memories of the liberation of Dachau.

the pins were pulled, and the grenades were carefully reloaded in the cans which were taped to stakes driven into the ground all around the camp. The trip wire wound from the stake and looped through the grenade handles.

At one point, the 1269th was assigned to a group of Army scientists and engineers, who had bent sent to scavenge for any German technology left behind by retreating Nazi forces. Just across the Rhine River, they entered an abandoned factory, only to find it emptied of everything except the payroll. Not knowing what else to do with the cache of German marks, they rolled it up in a copy of the *Stars & Stripes* and took it with them. At a later stop, they took refuge in what appeared to be an abandoned house and lit a fire in the stove, only to be accosted by a

woman shrieking at them in German. One of the men who spoke German translated for them - all the money she had in the world had been hidden in that stove. The German marks rolled up in the *Stars & Stripes* came to the rescue for the distraught woman.

As they pushed on, they often had no idea where they were. They had maps, but the retreating Germans had removed road signs or turned them around to confuse the approaching Allies. In one town, Aigen recalls walking into a cathedral and seeing all the chairs pushed against the walls. On the floor, he saw scratchings that turned out to be memorials for the cathedral's clergy, and in the middle of the sanctuary, machinery and equipment set up for making ammunition.

On April 28, 1945, the 1269th entered Munich, arriving at night to an eerie scene. The streetlights were on, but the streets themselves were deserted. They met no opposition whatsoever, spending the night in an empty museum. The next day, they headed for Dachau, some eight or nine miles away, one of over 200 concentration camps throughout Germany, as back up to the Third Infantry, which would go in first. The 1269th would watch their backs, making sure they weren't ambushed from behind after entering the camp.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Aigen.

There was absolutely no cover as they approached the front gate of Dachau; just a huge, treacherously wide-open grassy area sloping upward toward the gate, with

nowhere to hide if the enemy suddenly opened fire. They would be like sitting ducks.

There were two large posts on either side of the gate, framing the single railroad track leading inside. Above it, the now-famous words, "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work will make you free).

As they passed through the gate, Aigen recalls seeing an open area to the left of the tracks and a line of trees on the right...and that first group of battle-hardened Third Infantry soldiers who had arrived ahead of them, now seated on the ground, crying.

This was bad.

There had been whispers and vague rumors of concentration camps floating around before, but nothing prepared them for what they were seeing. An emaciated woman's head and shoulders hanging out of a boxcar, dead, one of thousands of bodies piled up in boxcars. A group of half a dozen bodies on the ground. Groups of dead, emaciated people everywhere. Others, still barely alive, sitting with their backs against the barracks walls, staring at nothing.

Aigen remembers opening the door to one of the barracks and seeing hundreds of cots stacked four deep from floor to ceiling. In that beam of light from the door, a gaunt, skull-faced man about 10 feet away lifted himself up on his elbow to see who was there, stared into the light for a few seconds, then sank down again, utterly exhausted.

Altogether, 2,310 bodies were piled in the boxcars alone: men, women and children who had starved to death. There were structures that looked like oversized children's swing-sets, where prison guards would suspend their victims from chains and then bat them around with large wooden sticks. When they tired of that sport, they hanged the victims from those same structures. Photographs of this and other horrors were left behind, along side the crematory ovens and the laboratories where medical experiments were carried out on prisoners.

It wasn't just Jewish people. Of the 34,432 people at Dachau, only 2,539 were Jews. The rest made up a list of some 20-25 nationalities.

The Nazis had a long list of "undesirables" who had no place in the narrow Aryan society of the Third Reich.

Aigen still has some of those photos from Dachau. "These were the kind of people we were dealing with," he says quietly. People who delighted in torture and killing. People who were the embodiment of the evil that has come to be associated with names like Dachau, Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

After two days at Dachau, the 1269th had to move on because of the war. Aigen's next assignment was to pick up troop supplies from a warehouse, but because he was too young to drive, he had to be assigned a driver.

Days later, in May of 1945, he was in a small town in France, walking down a street that could have been any street in small-town America, when church bells suddenly began ringing. Everywhere, all at once, ringing loudly. A man leaned out of one of the houses, took his hand and said "merci."

That was how he learned the war had ended.

He went back home, met Joyce, his wife of 62 years, in New York City, built a career and raised a family that includes three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They eventually moved to Valdosta in order to be closer to family.

After decades of carrying around the memories of Dachau in silence, he has begun, with encouragement from Joyce and other close friends, to speak publicly about what he saw those two days in April of 1945. To date, he has given over 40 presentations, at high schools, churches, civic clubs, colleges and other organizations.

He believes he has a responsibility to tell others what he witnessed, in the hopes that it will never be allowed to happen again. The face of evil cannot remain hidden away and forgotten. People must know it for what it is, and recognize it when they see it, if they are to prevent a repeat of one of the darkest eras in recent history.

And that is why George Aigen speaks.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Flatscreen TV Drawing At Light Up Madison



By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Madison are holding a joint fundraiser with a drawing for an LED 46-inch flatscreen TV.

With special thanks to Aaron's of Madison for making it possible, Rotary and Kiwanis members are selling tickets for \$5 each, and you can buy as many chances as you wish. The proceeds will benefit the charitable and community service projects supported by each club.

The drawing will be Saturday, Dec. 7, under the Kiwanis tent at Light Up Madison.

You do not have to be present to win...but you can't win if you don't buy a ticket. See any member of the Rotary or Kiwanis clubs for your chance to win.



Ashley Beggs Returns To Madison Rotary Club

Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, November 6, 2013

Madison Rotary Club President Wayne Conger (right) and founding member Jargo Clark (left) welcome returning member Ashley Beggs, after an absence of several years.



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United Way Holding A Community Conversation Event

By Rose Klein
Greene Publishing, Inc.

United Way of the Big Bend is undergoing a strategic planning process to ensure that the agency delivers the greatest possible return for the monies invested by organizations and citizens across the Big Bend. United Way feels it is important to undertake this process, so they can engage stakeholders about their aspirations and concerns.

The agency will be hosting a series of conversations with a variety of stakeholder groups to discuss and identify local issues that can then be addressed as a community.

If you are interested in joining the conversation in Madison County, the event will be held at the Madison Senior Center located at 1161 SW Harvey Greene Drive on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6 - 7 p.m.

To confirm your at-

tendance, please email Megan Picht at megan@uwbb.org. For questions or more information, contact Heather Mitchell at (850) 414-0855. If you would like to be involved, but are unable to attend, please consider sending a representative from your organization or contact either Megan or Heather to stay informed about future Community Conversation events.

Buddy Blalock Has "Most Improved Yard"



Greene Publishing, Inc. photo by Lynette Norris, November 19, 2013

Near the hospital and downtown Madison, Clarence "Buddy" Blalock lives in the house that has been in his family since 1941. Recently, he has had a lot of work done on his yard, earning him the Madison Garden Club's "Most Improved Yard" award, which pleased him enormously. On a sunny November afternoon, Buddy and his cat posed in the front yard beside the sign the Garden Club presented to him.

Kiwanis Holding Annual Citrus Sale

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Eating healthy during the holidays has never been easier. The Kiwanis Club of Madison is beginning its annual Christmas Citrus Sale, one of its major fundraisers for the year. The club is pre-selling boxes of Hamlin Oranges, Tangelos, and Ruby Red Grapefruit for \$25 a box or \$15 for half a box. They will also have Naval Oranges for \$30 a box or \$20 for half a

box (one box equals 4/5 bushel).

All the proceeds will be reinvested in Madison County through the Kiwanis Club's many charitable and community service projects, including the Key Club at Madison County High School, Healthy Start, Mentors in the Take Stock in Children Program, the Brain Bowl at the Central School, Books For Children, Blankets for Migrant Workers, Project Graduation, The Se-

nior Citizens Council, and the Terrific Kids Program of Madison County, just to name some of them.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Reeves, Jinks, Rutherford Win 4-H Tropicana Speech Contest

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Students from public and private schools, in grades fourth through sixth, competed in the Madison County 4-H Tropicana Speech Contest on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

At stake was a chance for all first place winners to win a scholarship to 4-H Camp Cherry Lake or another 4-H event of their choosing (which did not surpass the cost of attending camp) and for all first and second place county winners to compete at the District IV events competition on May 3, 2014. The District Events will be held in Gilchrist County.

Kayla Reeves, a student at Madison Academy, won first place for the sixth grade for her speech on "Bullying." Sadie Underwood, from Madison County Central School, garnered second place for her speech on "FCA." Caitlyn Jordan, from New Testament Christian School, finished third for the sixth grade presenters.

Tabytha Jinks, of Greenville Elementary School, won first place

for fifth grade for her speech on "The Beach." Dawson Herring, from Pinetta Elementary School, finished second for his speech on "The Last Frontier." Kennedy Fogle, from Madison County Central School, finished third with a speech on "Why I'm So Mad." Savannah Pitts, of Lee Elementary School, won an honorable mention for her speech on "Honey Bees." Elias Starling, from New Testament Christian School, and Savannah Curtis, from Madison Academy, were recognized for participating.

Rhett Rutherford, from Madison Academy, was the fourth grade winner for his speech, "For the Love of the Game." Yanett Serrano, from Lee Elementary School, was second place with the speech, "My Day at the Beach." Whitney Raines, from Pinetta Elementary School, won third place for her speech on "The Mountains." Zakira Howard won honorable mention for the speech, "The Importance." Eli Bull, from the Madison County Central School, was recognized for participation.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Cheltzie Kinsley, November 20, 2013

All students received an award for doing an outstanding job in the 2013 Tropicana Public Speaking Contest. Back row, left to right: Kayla Reeves, Sadie Underwood, Savannah Pitts, Elias Starling, Dawson Herring, Kennedy Fogle and Savannah Curtis. Front row, left to right: Caitlyn Jordan, Tabytha Jinks, Yanet Serrano, Zakira Howard, Whitney Raines, Eli Bull and Rhett Rutherford.

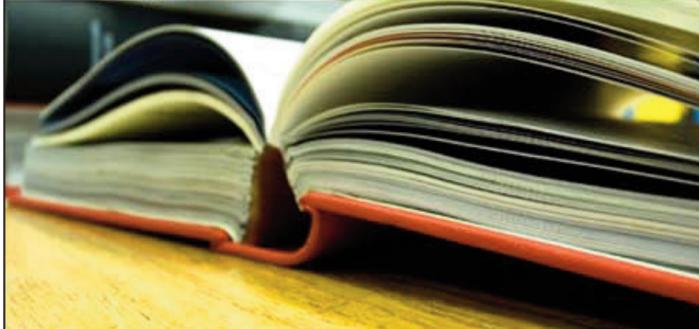


Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Cheltzie Kinsley, November 20, 2013

The fifth grade division was the biggest division at the Tropicana Public Speaking Contest. Pictured left to right: Savannah Curtis with Madison Academy, "My Summers at the Beach," participation; Elias Starling with New Testament Christian School, participation; Savannah Pitts with Lee Elementary School, "Honey Bees," honorable mention; Kennedy Fogle with Madison County Central School, "Why I'm So Mad," third place; Dawson Herring with Pinetta Elementary School, "The Last Frontier," second place; and Tabytha Jinks with Greenville Elementary School, "The Beach," first place.



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Nerves were high considering this was the fourth grader's first time competing in the speech contest. But nervousness did not stop these students from doing an excellent job. Shown left to right: Eli Bull with Madison County Central School, "The Imagination Can Do Many Things," participation; Zakira Howard with Greenville Elementary School, "The Importance," honorable mention; Whitney Raines with Pinetta Elementary School, "The Mountains," third place; Yanet Serrano with Lee Elementary School, "My Day at the Beach," second place; and Rhett Rutherford with Madison Academy, "For the Love of the Game," first place.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Cheltzie Kinsley, November 20, 2013

The sixth grade division was a very tough division as they all had interesting speeches. Pictured left to right: Caitlyn Jordan with New Testament Christian School, third place; Sadie Underwood with Madison County Central School, "FCA," second place; and Kayla Reeves with Madison Academy, "Bullying," first place.

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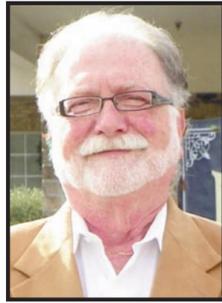


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Did You Know...

There are countless physical activities out there, but walking is the simplest positive change you can make to effectively improve your health. Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier. It's underrated as a form of exercise but walking is ideal for people of all ages and fitness levels who want to be more active.

Regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some types of cancers. Your heart is the single most important muscle in your body, but keeping it in shape doesn't require a gym membership or hours of workouts. Adding a few brisk walks into your week is all it takes. Exercise, such as walking, strengthens the muscles of your heart and makes it pump more efficiently, delivering more oxygen and nutrients to the other organs.

There's no question that walking is great for everyone: It dramatically boosts energy levels, fights

fat, and protects your heart. But if you have high blood sugar, or if you have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes or diabetes, walking can be a lifesaver. There is a strong association between abdominal fat and risk of developing diabetes and cardiovascular issues. Walking shrinks this dangerous abdominal fat and thus cuts down the risk of these grave conditions.

The key is to walk briskly -- three to four miles per hour -- and for 30-60 minutes at least five days a week. This can cut your risk of heart disease by 40



percent. Walking can also benefit those with a history of heart problems. However, it is important to check with your doctor first before beginning any kind of exercise program.

The easiest way to walk more is to make walking a habit. Think of ways to include walking into your daily routine: If you drive to work, park at the farthest point of the parking lot and walk the difference; If you take the bus, get off one or two stops earlier than normal; Take a 10-minute walk during your lunch break and another during your coffee break; Fit in an-

other 10 minutes after dinner.

* Get a check up before starting any new exercise program. If you already have heart problems, your doctor may want to perform tests to find out how much exercise you can safely do.

* Get a good pair of walking shoes.

* Start out slowly and increase gradually. At first, set a pace of about three miles per hour and walk for just 10 minutes.

* After you have ramped up, do at least 2.5 hours of walking a week. One way to do this is to walk for 30 minutes a day five times a week. But the total number of hours can be reached in any increments convenient for you.

* For motivation, walk with friends or pets.

* Use a pedometer to count your steps. Wear it throughout the day and try to reach at least 2,000 steps (approximately one mile) at first. Gradually increase your number of steps by 500 per week. Ways to do this include taking the stairs instead of an elevator, or parking farther away from your destination than you normally would.

If you're regularly active, you'll burn more calories, which helps you manage your weight and other cardiovascular risk factors. Plus, physically active people nearly always report better moods, less stress, more energy and a better outlook on life.

Say Aaaaah -- Tips To Protect Yourself From The Flu

It's that time of year. It starts as a tickle in your throat, a sneeze, a cough, until soon you're mouth feels stuffed with cotton, and you're going through tissues in Costco-size quantities. Welcome to the cold and flu season - officially December through March - and there is still no cure.



There are, however, things you can do to avoid infection, while protecting friends and family from these pesky viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following tips:

* Get a shot. It's best to be proactive, not reactive, when fighting the flu, say experts, so getting a flu shot is the first step in doing battle - and the sooner the better. "The flu shot doesn't work right away," says Nathan Limb, pharmacy supervisor for Walgreens in Chicago's central district. "It takes about two weeks to boost the immune system once you've received it."

* Wash your hands. Soap and water are your best friends during this season. Washing your hands, both front and back, for 15-seconds plus (the time

it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" three times, or the ABCs will do it) is key. This is especially important when working in common areas such as copy rooms or front offices.

* Drink plenty of liquids. It's important to, and while certain juices have been shown to prevent fewer cold symptoms, drinking water every day, all day, is a better option, say experts. Without water, no living thing can survive, which means it is crucial to maintaining optimal health. While water has a myriad of health benefits, research has shown that not all waters are created equal, and that some waters have more health benefits than others. This, say experts, is why drinking alkaline ionized water, such as Alkame Water, should be an essential part of anyone's health

plan. Doctors recommend the mild alkalinity because it allows for more effective hydration, which supports an optimal pH-balanced body and is a powerful source of antioxidants, which boost the immune system, while also enhancing energy levels and overall health.

* Keep your distance. If you do get sick, it's important to stay home so you can get better quickly and not spread germs to others. The rule of thumb is to stay home for at least 24 hours after a fever is gone without use of medicine that lowers the fever. This will ensure you are past the point where you are likely to spread the virus to others.

For more information on Alkame and its benefits, visit www.alkamewater.com

Big Bend Hospice's Tree Of Remembrance

Since 1993, Big Bend Hospice's Tree of Remembrance has been a special holiday tradition which allows people in the community to honor their loved ones and help Big Bend Hospice raise money for patient care. A gift to the Tree of Remembrance provides a wonderful alternative to traditional holiday gifts. The Tree provides a time to remember and celebrate the lives of those we love. It also helps Big Bend Hospice provide care, comfort and hope to those who are dying.

This year, in addition to the traditional three levels of giving; angels (\$50), bells (\$25) and bows (\$10); patrons who make a donation of \$250 or more will receive a limited edition Wedgewood ornament, along with a beautiful ornament of their choosing placed on a Tree of Remembrance

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SCHOOL

SWAT: Students Working Against Tobacco



Photo Submitted

Madison County Central School students join in the SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) team.



Photo Submitted

Ciggy Butts attends Downtown Halloween, accompanied by Esther Oro (left) and Ginger Oro (right) passing out materials in hopes of encouraging people to stop smoking.

Submitted By Leila C. Rykard
Human Services
Program Specialist
Tobacco Prevention
Program
Madison County Health
Department

SWAT is Florida's statewide youth organization working to mobilize, educate and equip Florida youth to revolt against and de-glamorize "Big Tobacco." SWAT is not just a peer education organization. Although the long-term goal is to improve the health of all Floridians, SWAT's message is aimed at the tobacco industry.

SWAT is not only a youth advocacy group; they also promote leadership and community involvement while focusing primarily on policy change. SWAT uses

these avenues among teens to increase awareness and shift tobacco related social norms.

On a local level, SWAT members work with each county tobacco free partnership to advocate for policy change that prevent youth initiation, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and promote cessation. The goal of each group is to change social norms so that tobacco is not accessible, not acceptable and not desirable.

SWAT members are working in three main policy areas:

- * Implement comprehensive tobacco free campus policy within their school districts.
- * Restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products not covered by the FDA.
- * Educate their

peers and community about the influence of tobacco marketing in retail outlets on tobacco use.

To accomplish these policy objectives, SWAT members conduct surveillance, educate and mobilize their peers and community members about tobacco issues, participate in media advocacy and present to decision makers.

Locally, Madison County has two SWAT groups and advisors: Matt Replogle with the Madison County Central School and AD Kinsey, who heads up a faith-based SWAT group.

For more information, contact Leila Rykard at the Madison County Department of Health, (850) 973-5000 ext. 118.

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SCHOOL

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K4 (Bass)
All E
Annabelle Acutt, Cadie Agner, Beau Beshears, Henry Cooksey, Case Curry, Bubba Davis, Matthew Hughes, Kade McLeod, Kendall Perdue, Bo Rutledge, Lilly Sears, Brigham Sparkman, Jacob Vickers, Addison Walker, Maggie Walker, J.R. Watson.

K-5 (Stephens)
All E
Kanny Andrews, Caine Demott, Benjamin Faglie, Leighton Faglie, MadiLynn Hughes, Brandon Key, J.T. Kinard, Jaret Kinsey, Georgia Lindsey, Morgan McNeill, Skyler Pearson, Heaven-Leigh Purvis, Natalie Register, Emma Rogers, London Smith.

First Grade (Roberts)
All A
Hayden Ashworth, Nash Beshears, Natalie Clark, Bryson Clore, Lauren Davis, Dalton Demott, Kristina Everly, Joshua Forehand, Emma Green, Kyle Hamrick, Logan

Riedle, Raegan Walker.
All A and B
Danica Baggett, Ethan Bass, Suzanne Beshears, Bryson Clore, Charles Hughs, Feren Rosas, Caleb Walker, Jason Wheeler.

Second Grade (Love)
All A
Tyson Clark, Brydynn Johnson, Walker Sparkman, Emma Vickers.

All A and B
Ivy Armstrong, Riley Beggs, Joshua Boland, Harper Davis, Adam Day, Wyman Demott, Lauchlin Faglie, Leigha Hunt, Jady Kinsey, Chase Oester, Josh Payne, Madison Roland, Zach Sears, Aisley Smith, Emilee Walker.

Third Grade (Aman)
All A
Brewster Bass, Axel Day, Anna Drawdy, Jace Grant, Daisy Kinard, Haylie McLeod, Caroline Taylor, Ali Townsend.

All A and B
Ryan Adams, Joleane Alexandrou, Joseph Boland, Destiny

Clore, Aiden Day, Sammi Drawdy, Daniel Harrington, Samuel Kennedy, Macy Reagan, Riley Rutledge, Lillie Schwier, Emma Tharpe, Kaitlin Paxton Williams.

Fourth Grade (Whiddon)
All A
Turner Beshears, Kasey Chmura, Jacob Green, Jenna Lindsey, Ben Whiddon, Tag Williams.

All A and B
Caitlin Bates, Oliver Hutsell, Addison Shiver, Megan Vann.

Fifth Grade (Falk)
All A
Keira Evans, Riley Rowe, Olivia Walton.
All A and B
Jeb Beshears, Selina Drawdy, James Hightower, Jarrett Roland, Taylor Roland, MaryRose Schwier, Will Sullivan.

Fifth Grade (Hughey)
All A
Joey Davis, Lindsey Davis, Kolton

Grambling.
All A and B
Natalie Andrews, Dean Forehand, Jared Grant, Riley Hamrick, Sarah Plain, Tyler Slaughter, Wyatt Stafford, Anna Lee Trest, Travis Wheeler.

Sixth Grade
All A
Carl Hall, Dennis Jiang, Bailey McLeod, Abby Reams.

All A and B
Jamieson Dalzell, Nathan Dukes, Ansley English, Nathan Green, Brandon Hannon, Andy Jiang, Julianna Linsey, Marley Restrepo, Albree Shiver, Austin Wheeler.

Seventh Grade
All A
Emily Brock
All A and B
Brandon Bates, Grace Beshears, Ian Hutsell, Ryan Jackson, Megan Schofill, Levi Stafford, Taylor Walker.

Eighth Grade
All A
Timothy Finlayson, Camryn Grant.

All A and B
Stewart Dalzell, Summer Dee, Skylar Dickey, Jacob Dukes, Jessica Giddens, Elizabeth Hightower, Evan Hocking, Carly Joiner, Haley Jones, Kurt Lane, Abigail Morgan, Hannah Searcy, Brandon Slaughter, Joe Walton, Ria Wheeler, Mickaela Whiddon.

Ninth Grade
All A
Nick Arceneaux, Faith Demott, Joshua Greene, Sarah Hall, Kelly Horne, Brittany Hughes, Kirsten Reagan, Natalie Vasquez, Kate Whiddon.

All A and B
Traynor Barker, Dena Bishop, Cali Burkett, Cassie Davis, Daisy Dee, Darren Ellis, Stephanie English, Chaz Hamilton, Joe Hannon, Jenny Jackson, Heather James, Hannah Lewis, Gatlin Nennstiel, Alex Parker, Ramsey Sullivan.

Tenth Grade
All A
Dorian Alberti, Corey Brandies, Taylor

Copeland, Abigail Hettiger, Savannah Jenkins, Zackery Peterson, Sarah Tharpe, Emma Witmer.

All A and B
Christopher Fitch, Dalton Gramling, Sam Hogg, Taylor McKnight, T.J. Swords.

Eleventh Grade
All A
Morgan Cline, Sarah James, Winston Lee, Monique Restrepo, Seth Wiles.

All A and B
Zach Arceneaux, Austin Bishop, Ty Chancy, Maddie Everett, Ricky Finlayson, Kinzi Mattingly, Carson Nennstiel, Nick Roberts, Stormie Roberts, Cole Schwab, Steven Trest, Caroline Yaun, Tyler Zimmerly.

Twelfth Grade
All A
Cole Davis, Lauren Demott, Brandon Holm, Hunter Horne, Aimee Love, Ashlyn Mills, Sara Peeler, Whitney Stevens.
All A and B
Victoria Brock, Devan Courtney, Braden Mattingly.

SRWMD Invites High Schools To Implement Water Quality And Quantity Projects

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) invites high schools within its 15-county District boundary, including Madison, to join their efforts in protecting water resources by implementing water conservation, water quality improvement, or efficient irrigation management projects. The District Governing Board is designating \$20,000 to assist STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), agricultural, and other high school classes to fund the projects.

The program is currently open to high schools only, and interested schools may apply for funding consideration, not to exceed \$2,000, for the following type projects:

- Retrofitting irrigation systems to drip irrigation or to micro-irrigation.
- Incorporating fertigation into irrigation systems.
- Building a rain garden, which utilizes stormwater for irriga-

tion.

- Other water quality or quantity projects.

"The District is pleased to support high school students in their efforts to implement projects that save water and improve water quality. An added benefit of the program is that it provides students with hands-on educational experiences involving the protection and restoration of our water resources," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

While there is no formal application to complete, interested parties may submit project proposals and descriptions of their projects to Kevin Wright at klw@srwmd.org. The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, Dec. 6.

For more information, please call (386) 362-1001 or (800) 226-1066 (Fla only).

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Yearbook Club Creates Memories

By Rose Klein
Greene Publishing, Inc.

"Will you sign my yearbook?" Come May of next year, that question will be heard all over Madison County Central School as students present their books to friends, teachers and staff who will, in return, create memories with their printed messages and signatures. Long before this happens, yearbook sponsors and their students will be working hard, getting stories, pictures and advertising to ensure the book is published and ready to sell.

Heather Welch, the media specialist in the school library and Jeff Veilleux, eighth grade Language Arts teacher, work with about 24 students, who were selected to be in the club by writing an essay, holding a mandatory grade point average and having no discipline referrals. The club is made up of seventh and eighth graders, who meet after school one to two times a week to work on the book. Welch said, "The students have already taken a field trip downtown to sell ads to local businesses in order to help fund the yearbook, which she says takes about \$11,000 to create. Welch also wanted to express her appreciation to all the businesses who have supported the club by purchasing ads for the book."

Welch and Veilleux assist the students in creating the book online, where students are in charge of laying out the individual pages, choosing pic-



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein November 15, 2013
Jeff Veilleux (left) and Heather Welch (far right), work with students in the yearbook club on next year's annual. Sitting from left to right: Denetra Lee, Ja'Bryan Butler and Kristen Jackson.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein November 15, 2013
Yearbook club members working in the library, from left to right, are: Alyssa Odom, Jayla Hall, Kiera Brown and Bradley Sexton.

tures, colors and creating captions. The students are also responsible for taking the pictures for the yearbook, such as pictures around campus and football games. MCCS yearbooks will be on sale in May 2014 and will cost \$35. You can order a book up until January with a \$20 deposit. Previous year's books can also be purchased. If you interested in placing an ad, there is still

about one more week. To purchase an ad or yearbook, contact Heather Welch at www.Heather.Welch@madisonmail.us.

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11/27, pd

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).

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CASH FOR FLORIDA LICENSE PLATES! \$1000 for Madison Co enamel Tags dated 1911-17, \$100 each for FL tags starting with #35 for years 1938, 39, 40, 43, 49, and 54. Jeff Francis gobucs13@aol.com or 727 424 1576.

www.floridalicenseplates.com

10/23 - 12/25, pd

AUCTION

AUCTION-OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AUCTION SATURDAY November 30 at 5:30 p.m. Madison Auction House. 1693 SW Moseley Hall Rd (CR360) 850 973-1444 **AGAIN THIS YEAR WE ARE PARTNERING WITH THE SALVATION ARMY AND SOME OF THE LOCAL VFD TO COLLECT TOYS FOR THOSE CHILDREN THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE RECEIVE ONE. BRING ONE OR BUY ONE AT THE AUCTION AND HELP THESE KIDS OUT!** WE ARE ALSO HAVING OUR ANNUAL FREE DINNER BETWEEN 4:30 AND 5:30 P.M. FOR OUR AUCTION ATTENDEES. COME JOIN THE FUN, EAT AND DONATE A TOY TO HELP A CHILD OUT. 10% Buyers Premium. MC, Visa, Discover, Debit Cards, Checks and Cash Accepted. AU691 Ron Cox, AB2490.

11/20, 11/27, pd

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Washer And Dryer For Sale!

Kenmore series 70 washer, top load. Series 80 dryer, front load (door opens from top down). White in color and both are in perfect working order. \$400 firm. Call (229) 460-5296

10/30 - rtm, nc

Pageant and Prom Dresses For Sale:

Size 16 pre-teen size - white long pageant gown, cap sleeves, white sequin work across entire bodice and sleeves - \$100.

Size 10 Teen Dress - A beautiful, elegant, flowing emerald green dress. Has eye-catching beaded straps that criss cross in the back along with a beaded design in the front of the dress. Beautiful flowing train. \$200.

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. - \$250. Call Emerald Greene (850) 973-3497.

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1/4 inch coat galvanized steel cable for sale
.15 cent a foot. We have as much as you need.
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4/10 - rtm, nc

Newspaper Bundles For Sale \$1 each
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6/19 - rtm, nc

Pageant and Prom Dresses For Sale:

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

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

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

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

Size 8 Teen Dress - A fuchsia strapless gorgeous dress. The dress has gathers up the bodice and a sequined design down the left side and laces up half the back. There is also a train on this dress and a split up one leg. \$200. Call Emerald Greene (850) 973-3497.

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New and Repo Homes 25 to pick from. Come to Lake City the dual makers at Freedom Homes. Mike (386) 623-4218.

11/20 - rtm, nc

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Been turned down? Have 10k to 15k? Call me I can make a deal. Call Magic Mike (386) 623-4218.

11/20 - rtm, nc

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11/20 - rtm, nc

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11/20 - rtm, nc

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11/20 - rtm, nc

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11/20 - rtm, nc

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10/16 - rtm, nc



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rtm, nc

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10/16 - rtm, nc

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6/22 - rtm, nc

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11/22, 11/27, c

Quest Training offers a professional CNA prep class taught by a registered nurse. High pass rates on state test. No GED or Diploma required if age 18 yr. Day and evening classes. **Next class November 11.** 386-362-1065.

11/6 - 11/27, pd

• **Maintenance Equipment Specialist.**

• **Part time curriculum developer wanted.**

• **Coord. of Institutional Research; Allied Health Clinical Coord; Registered Nurse.** See www.nfcc.edu for details.

11/20, 11/27, c



Maintenance Person Needed Apartment experience helpful. Full time position with benefits. Apply in person at the Arbours in Madison, 134 SW Arbour Circle in Madison or e-mail resume to kristen@arboursatmadison.com.

11/13 - 11/27, c

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HELP WANTED

Hiring for All Positions Youth Services International is now accepting applications for its new facility in Jasper, FL. Applications can be picked up from Joann Bridges Academy in Greenville, FL. Resumes can be faxed to 850-948-4227 to Kimberly Glee or Tuwollar Mobley. For additional information please call 850-948-4220.

11/8 - 11/27, c

Ad Builder/Graphic Artist needed for the Madison County Carrier and the Madison Enterprise-Recorder. Must be a team player and able to handle multiple tasks. Experience with Adobe Photoshop a must, experience with Quark Express plus. Apply in person only at Greene Publishing, located at 1695 South SR 53, in Madison.

11/20 - rtm, nc

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11/22 - rtm, nc



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Legal

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA.
WOODLAND III, LTD., a Florida limited partnership, Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL TRONOLONE, Defendant.
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to an Order or a Final Judgment of Foreclosure in the above-captioned action, I, Tim Sanders, Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell the highest and best bidder for cash, at the west front door of the Madison County Courthouse, 125 SW Range Ave., Madison, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on the 8th day of January, 2014, the following described property:
WESTWOOD FOREST PARCEL 18 BLOCK D
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 10 EAST, MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 13 AND RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST 2562.98 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST 908.96 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST 1084.32 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST 176.77 FEET TO A POINT LYING 39 FEET FROM THE NEAREST POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A COUNTY GRADED ROAD, CONTINUE THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST 31.29 FEET TO SAID CENTERLINE, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE ON A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTH, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 4509.71 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 26 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 26 SECONDS, FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 31.29 FEET, THENCE LEAVING SAID CENTERLINE, RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 31.28 FEET TO A POINT LYING 30 FEET FROM THE NEAREST POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF SAID COUNTY GRADED ROAD, CONTINUE THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1154.85 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 491.37 FEET, THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1071.90 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 20.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS EXCLUSIVE OF ANY LANDS LYING WITHIN THIRTY (30) FEET OF THE AFORESAID CENTERLINE.
SUBJECT TO RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENTS OVER AND ACROSS ANY PORTION THEREOF SITUATED WITHIN THIRTY (30) FEET OF THE AFORESAID COUNTY ROAD CENTERLINE(S) FOR THE PURPOSES OF PUBLIC ROADWAY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the sale must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 20 day of Nov, 2013.
TIM SANDERS, Clerk of the Circuit Court, By: Pamela Dickinson, As Deputy Clerk.
H. EDWARD GAVIN, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 358041, Gainesville, FL 32635, (352) 373-2598, Florida Bar No. 749753, 11/27, 12/4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA.
FARM CREDIT OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, A.C.A., Plaintiff, vs. GERARD JOAZARD, a/k/a GERALD JOAZARD, ANTOINETTE JOAZARD, NASSER RICHMOND, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF NASSAR RICHMOND, WESTWOOD FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.
CASE NO. 2012-223-CA
NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 15, 2013 and an Order Reopening Case And Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered in Case No. 2012-223-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit, in and for Madison County, Florida, in which Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, A.C.A. is the Plaintiff and Gerard Joazard, a/k/a Gerald Joazard, Antoinette Joazard, Nasser Richmond, Unknown Spouse of Nasser Richmond, Westwood Forest Property Owners' Association, Inc. and Unknown Tenant(s), are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the West Front Door Steps of the Madison County Courthouse, 125 SW Range Avenue, Madison, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on December 20, 2013, the property set forth in the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and more particularly described as follows:
A parcel of land lying in Section 14, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Madison County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 14, and run S 00°18'27" E, a distance of 1200.50 feet; thence N 89°01'39" E, a distance of 868.73 feet; thence S 00°01'56" E, a distance of 110.83 feet to the Point of Beginning, from said Point of Beginning; run N 89°35'24" E, a distance of 1365.27 feet; thence S 02°50'53" W, a distance of 1312.21 feet to the North right of way of Tract C; thence run the following courses along said right of way: S 89°00'39" W, a distance of 850.33 feet; thence N 88°27'34" E, a distance of 249.17 feet; thence N 88°41'04" W, a distance of 200.06 feet; thence S 88°27'34" E, a distance of 249.17 feet; thence N 89°00'39" E, a distance of 1352.07 feet; thence N 87°49'38" E, a distance of 301.28 feet; thence S 89°21'17" E, a distance of 474.90 feet; thence N 89°33'23" E, a distance of 645.49 feet; thence S 87°16'12" E, a distance of 232.10 feet; thence N 89°12'18" E, a distance of 327.37 feet; thence S 89°01'21" E, a distance of 179.09 feet; thence N 88°27'19" E, a distance of 404.85 feet; thence S 86°14'16" E, a distance of 405.10 feet to the West right of way of County Road No. 255, said point being the Point of Curve of a non-tangent curve to the right, having a radius of 11409.16 feet and a central angle of 00°18'07"; thence S 00°27'23" W, a distance of 60.13 feet; thence leaving said right of way; for a chord of S 00°27'23" W, a distance of 60.13 feet; thence S 88°27'19" W, a distance of 403.39 feet; thence N 89°01'21" E, a distance of 174.75 feet; thence S 89°12'18" E, a distance of 330.96 feet; thence N 82°16'12" W, a distance of 240.06 feet; thence S 89°33'23" W, a distance of 641.77 feet; thence N 89°21'17" W, a distance of 474.00 feet; thence S 87°49'38" E, a distance of 339.51 feet; thence S 89°02'10" W, a distance of 1298.59 feet; thence S 88°27'34" W, a distance of 263.74 feet; thence S 88°41'04" W, a distance of 201.52 feet; thence N 89°01'56" W, a distance of 60.02 feet to the Point of Beginning.
AND The North 24.0 feet of the West 1299.56 feet, and the South 12 feet of the North 24.0 feet of the East 3474.93 feet of Tract C, described more particularly as follows:
Tract C, Westwood Forest
A parcel of land lying in Sections 13 and 14, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Madison County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 14, and run S 00°18'27" E, a distance of 1200.50 feet; thence N 89°01'39" E, a distance of 868.73 feet; thence S 00°01'56" E, a distance of 110.83 feet to the Point of Beginning, from said Point of Beginning; run N 88°41'04" E, a distance of 200.06 feet; thence S 88°27'34" E, a distance of 249.17 feet; thence N 89°00'39" E, a distance of 1352.07 feet; thence N 87°49'38" E, a distance of 301.28 feet; thence S 89°21'17" E, a distance of 474.90 feet; thence N 89°33'23" E, a distance of 645.49 feet; thence S 87°16'12" E, a distance of 232.10 feet; thence N 89°12'18" E, a distance of 327.37 feet; thence S 89°01'21" E, a distance of 179.09 feet; thence N 88°27'19" E, a distance of 404.85 feet; thence S 86°14'16" E, a distance of 405.10 feet to the West right of way of County Road No. 255, said point being the Point of Curve of a non-tangent curve to the right, having a radius of 11409.16 feet and a central angle of 00°18'07"; thence S 00°27'23" W, a distance of 60.13 feet; thence leaving said right of way; for a chord of S 00°27'23" W, a distance of 60.13 feet; thence S 88°27'19" W, a distance of 403.39 feet; thence N 89°01'21" E, a distance of 174.75 feet; thence S 89°12'18" E, a distance of 330.96 feet; thence N 82°16'12" W, a distance of 240.06 feet; thence S 89°33'23" W, a distance of 641.77 feet; thence N 89°21'17" W, a distance of 474.00 feet; thence S 87°49'38" E, a distance of 339.51 feet; thence S 89°02'10" W, a distance of 1298.59 feet; thence S 88°27'34" W, a distance of 263.74 feet; thence S 88°41'04" W, a distance of 201.52 feet; thence N 89°01'56" W, a distance of 60.02 feet to the Point of Beginning.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the sale, must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.
DATED: November 20, 2013
TIM SANDERS, Clerk of the Circuit Court, By: Pamela Dickinson, As Deputy Clerk.
Michael P. Bist, Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden, Bush, Dec, LaVia & Wright, P.A., 1300 Thomaswood Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, 11/27, 12/4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA.
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., PLAINTIFF, vs. LUIS R. OTERO, ET AL. DEFENDANT(S).
CASE NO. 402011CA000484CXXXXX
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 29, 2013, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Madison, Florida, on Feb. 26, 2014, at 11:00 AM, at West front doorsteps of courthouse - 125 S.W. Range Ave., Madison, FL 32341 for the following described property:
The land referred to in this policy is situated in the State of FL, County of MADISON, City of GREENVILLE and described as follows: A parcel of Land in the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 1 South, Range 7 East, Madison County, Florida, more particularly described as follows: Begin at an axel at the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 19, and run South 89 degrees 06 minutes 46 seconds East, along the North line of Section 19, 666.80 feet to an iron at the Northeast corner of the West half of said Northeast quarter of Northwest quarter, thence South 00 degrees 22 minutes 15 seconds East, (base bearings) along the East line of said West half of Northeast quarter Northwest quarter 750.42 feet, thence West 535.83 feet, thence North 04 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 506.33 feet, thence North 19 degrees 32 minutes 13 seconds West, 271.25 feet to the point of beginning, subject to power line.
Together an easement for ingress and egress more particularly described in that a survey drawn by Poppell, Patnal & Associates, Inc. dated January 10, 2006, as follows: A 20 foot roadway lying in Section 19, Township 1 South, range 7 East, Madison County, Florida situated 10 feet each side of a centerline being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 19; thence South 19 degrees 32 minutes 13 seconds East, a distance of 61.25 feet; thence south 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west, a distance of 2100.00 feet; thence South 19 degrees 32 minutes 13 seconds East, a distance of 210.05 feet; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 45 seconds West, a distance of 30.93 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 45 seconds West, a distance of 294.21 feet to the Westerly Right of Way SE Open sands Loop; thence South 36 degrees 50 minutes 16 seconds West along said Right of Way run along said centerline the following courses; South 89 degrees 07 minutes 45 seconds East a distance of 301.63 feet; thence South 88 degrees 54 minutes 45 seconds East a distance of 240.93 feet to the west side of Jackson Property as described in OR Book 256 Page 150 also being the terminal point of said centerline.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the sale must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.
DATED: 11-21-13
TIM SANDERS, Clerk of the Circuit Court, By: Pamela Dickinson, As Deputy Clerk of the Court.
Prepared by: Gladstone Law Group, P.A., 1499 W. Palmetto Park Road, Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33486
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. Please contact ADA Coordinator at 386-719-7428, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Our Case #: 13-00314-FBI40211CA000484CXXXXX
11/27, 12/4

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA
The School Board of Madison County, Florida announces that the School Board will hold its regular public meetings, to which all persons are invited to attend, as follows:
Dates: Dec. 10, 2013 Jan. 21, 2014 Feb. 4, 2014
Feb. 18, 2014 Mar. 4, 2014 Mar. 18, 2014
April 15, 2014 May 6, 2014 May 20, 2014
June 3, 2014 June 17, 2014 July 1, 2014
July 15, 2014 Aug. 5, 2014 Aug. 19, 2014
Sept. 2, 2014 Sept. 16, 2014 Oct. 7, 2014
Oct. 21, 2014 Nov. 18, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: The School Board Meeting Room, 210 North East Duval Avenue, Madison, Florida 32340
Purpose: To consider and act upon the business of the School Board.
A copy of each agenda may be obtained no earlier than 7 days prior to each meeting by writing to the School Board at 210 North East Duval Avenue, Madison, Florida 32340 or by calling Ms. Jane Dickey at (850) 973-5022.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in any of the above meetings is asked to advise the School Board at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting Ms. Jane Dickey at (850) 973-5022. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the School Board by calling 711.
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the School Board with respect to any matter considered at such meetings he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
School Board of Madison County, Florida
By: /s/ Doug Brown, Doug Brown, Superintendent of Schools, 11/27

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Oliver Bradley Tells 55 Plus About Veteran's Services



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, November 13, 2013

Rev. Oliver Bradley of the Veterans Services Office of Madison County talks to the 55 Plus Club about services and benefits available to veterans. By Lynette Norris

Greene Publishing, Inc.
Oliver Bradley grew up in Valdosta, Ga. He was drafted into the military in 1968, serving in the Signal Corps in Vietnam, and then in the infantry, where he was injured. Shortly afterwards, he returned to the U.S., eventually moving to Madison. Since 1992, he has been active in local churches, start-

ing out as a Methodist, but eventually gravitating towards the Baptist denomination, serving at Damascus Baptist with David De-Laughter, then at Morning Star Baptist and currently at Genesis Baptist across from Fellowship on Hwy 145.

For the last 20 years, he has been the Veteran's Service Officer, serving both Jefferson and Madison Counties, working in the Jefferson office Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and the Madison office Thursdays and Fridays, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Madison office is on the first floor of the Courthouse Annex, just past Tax Collector Lisa Tuten's Office.

"Knowing the plight of veterans has made my job easy," he told the 55 Plus Club at their November meeting two days after Veterans Day. "I love

helping veterans, their families, and their widows. It is a blessing to serve the veterans and widows of Madison County."

For the purposes of eligibility for veterans' services, "veteran" is defined as anyone who served a tour of duty of at least 120 consecutive days in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, and received any discharge other than "dishonorable," if the veteran received an honorable discharge, there is no distinction between "volunteer" and "draftee."

When he asked the audience for a show of hands for those who had served, almost every man in the room raised his hand.

The Veterans Service Office in Madison has a contract with Big Bend Transportation that offers transportation services to

and from V.A. Medical Centers in Lake City or Gainesville for veterans who need it. In Jefferson County, he has a car for transporting veterans to Tallahassee. He also helps veterans with filing for education, vocational rehabilitation and retirement benefits they are entitled to, and help with filing claims for service-connected disabilities (defined as any injury received or any ongoing illness that first occurred while they were on active duty.) In his work, he meets a lot of veterans who are qualified for V.A. services and benefits they never knew about and never applied for.

Other benefits include emergency and long-term health care. If an elderly veteran needs placement in a nursing facility, the V.A. has a contract with the state and several nursing facilities

to make sure the veteran is placed as close to home as possible. There are also services available for homebound veterans, but they need to be qualified in the V.A. system, preferably before they get to that point. The Veterans Services Office can help with that.

In the years since his own service in the military, he has become a pacifist. "I do not advocate war," he said firmly. "However, if our country had kept the draft in place, and all our young men had served two years, they would be better for it. They would see that no matter how much you cried, you had to do it." Not to go to war, but to serve and to learn discipline and self-control in their lives.

"If we put them in the military, maybe our jails wouldn't be so full," he said.

In closing, he



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, November 13, 2013

Setting the stage for guest speaker Oliver Bradley, and in keeping with the patriotic theme for the 55 Plus Club's meeting, Ginger Jarvis sings the National Anthem.

avowed his love of his country. Like his favorite Lee Greenwood song says, "I'm proud to be an American."

For more information about veterans services and benefits, contact Bradley at (850) 464-1191, or visit the Veterans Services Office in the Courthouse Annex.

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