

## MADISON RANKED AMONG STATE'S UNHEALTHY COUNTIES

By Lazaro Aleman  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Madison County was ranked among the state's least healthy counties, according to the findings of a national survey that compares counties across the country on 29 factors that affect health, including smoking, high school graduation rates, unemployment, physical inactivity and access to healthy food.

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the County Health Rankings, jointly released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) on March 26, is based on

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## Robin's Nest May Come To Greenville



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 14, 2014

Beth Fulford, of the Board of Directors for Robin's Nest of Hope Home for Battered Women, addresses the Greenville Town Council to request a letter of support for bringing the program to Greenville.

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Robin's Nest... it sounds a little like the name of a specialty gift shop, but although the proposed new enterprise is not a store or shop, it is still a gift - for battered and abused women escaping from dangerous situations, to a place where they can start over and begin a new life. In that sense, the imagery of a robin's nest, with the robin as

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## Florida's Jobless Rate Up Slightly In March

By Lazaro Aleman  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed slightly in March, putting it at 6.3 percent, 0.1 percentage point above the 6.2 percent in February.

This according to the latest figures released by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) on Friday, April 18.

The state agency gave no explanation for the slight uptick. Nationally, the jobless rate remained at 6.7 percent for the fourth month, 0.4-percentage point higher than the state rate.

In Madison County, the rate remained at 8.5 percent, the same as the previous month. However, in Jefferson

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Wed. April 30, 2014

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# Madison Police Department Is Not Shutting Down

By Jessie R. Box  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A rumor has been spreading that the Madison Police Department was merging with the Madison County Sheriff's Office and had become effective at the community meeting held Thursday, April 24. As

of now, that is not the case.

"The rumor, when I heard it, was news to me," said City Manager Tim Bennett. "The purpose of the community meetings is for them to be a series of meetings conducted by individual city commissioners. Commissioner Thompson

conducted the first one. Commissioner Catron is planning one for May, and Commissioner Hawkins is planning one for June. The meetings are an opportunity for citizens to ask questions about and to comment on, city policies and initiatives."

Police Chief Gary

Calhoun stated, "With the current budget issues facing the City of Madison, it is likely that there will be some adjustments to the police department's budget. I do not believe, however, that we are heading toward consolidating with the Sheriff's Office. Our Madison Police Offi-

cers currently provide a significant level of service to our citizens which creates a safer environment for everyone."

Bennett did add that he intends to cut the Police Department by one or two officers through attrition beginning January 1, 2015.

# House Fire Early Friday Morning In Madison

Madison's 911 Communication's Center received a report of a house fire at 2:45 a.m., on Friday, April 25. The house is located on 317 SE Gillislee Street in Madison. Madison Fire Rescue was first on the scene.

According to Madison Fire Rescue Chief Bruce Jordan, the cause of the fire was an unattended candle in the bathroom.

Additional units from New Home Fire/Rescue and Lee Fire/Rescue were requested and reported to the fire location. Also assisting were the City of Madison Police Department, Madison County Emergency Medical Services and the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

There were no injuries reported.



Photos Courtesy Of Pat Lightcap



Photos Courtesy Of Pat Lightcap

## Vehicle Tag Stolen



Michael Antoine Hill

Submitted by Madison County Sheriff's Office

Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart reports that on Thursday April 24, at 4:52 p.m., a deputy of the Madison County Sheriff's Office conducted a registration check on a Silver Ford Taurus near the intersection of Base and Duval Street in Madison. The license plate returned as a stolen license plate from Madison County in December of 2013. By the

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Submitted by Madison County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ben Stewart shares information concerning continued recent "SCAM" activity and would like for all citizens to be aware that Scam activities are increasingly claiming more and more victims. Historically, criminals often worked alone and only seemed to target the elderly. However, times have changed and now most Scams are master minded by criminal groups who are highly organized, very tech savvy and have no limits to their target. Methods include falsely filing others' income tax returns, calling claiming to be a Law Enforcement Officer or representing an official agency demanding the victim pay fines or penalties to avoid arrest, sending official looking documents claiming the victim owes fines or penalties. Most of these types of Scams require the victim to obtain a pre-paid type credit card and load the card with funds to remit as pay-

See Scam Alert On Page 3A

# County Commission Approves Cell Tower, Assistance To Upcoming Events

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The County Commission approved an application for a special exemption for a 260-foot cell phone tower on a parcel of land in the SW part of the county. As some commissioners noted, there are no other communication towers in that area of the county, and it will help fill in a gap. Representing the Planning and Zoning Board, Jeanie Bass told the commissioners that the Planning and Zoning Board had already voted to unanimously approve the application, and the final stop was the county. Epp Richardson of the Madison County Sheriff's Department added that Verizon, the largest provider for county-wide service, was working toward making the county a 4G area, which would mean

continuous communication service without constantly having to reboot and log on.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application.

Tami Brown, a board member for the Madison County Recreation Department, and chair of the Miss 20<sup>th</sup> of May Jubilee Celebration this year, appeared before the commission to request help in cleaning up and beautifying the parade route for the event, taking place at the Rec Park May 15 through May 18. She also invited everyone to the recently begun "Sunday Funday" kickball games at the rec park, where families and kids start gathering and playing kickball around 3 p.m., and keep playing until dark. Someday soon, Brown hopes to have a kickball league up and running in Madison County.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 23, 2014

Tami Brown, board member for the Madison County Recreation Department, appeared before the County Commission for help in getting the parade route ready for the 20<sup>th</sup> of May Jubilee Celebration. The event runs May 15 through May 18, and the parade will take place Saturday, May 17.

The commissioners agreed to do whatever they could to help get the parade route in shape.

Another big event on everyone's mind this year is high

school graduation and what happens afterwards. For the last several years, Project Graduation has provided a safe alternative for high school seniors to celebrate this milestone event in their lives, with indoor and outdoor activities, games, dances, food and drawing for prizes held throughout. MCHS senior and senior class president Darby Thompson appeared before the board to update them on plans for the night, which seniors had been working on very diligently for most of the year, to request donations and support for the event. It would allow the Class of 2014 to be together "one last time," said Thompson, before they go their separate ways into adulthood.

The commission agreed to provide gift cards for some of the prize drawings.

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## Local Weather

Wed 4/30 84/68  
Slight chance of a thunderstorm. Potential for severe thunderstorms.

Thu 5/1 78/58  
Scattered thunderstorms possible.

Fri 5/2 63/51  
Scattered thunderstorms possible.

Sat 5/3 76/54  
Few showers. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

# VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

## Emerald's Gem Box

### Growing Up In The Newspaper Business



**Emerald Greene**  
Publisher

I never had to wonder what I wanted to do when I "grew up." I grew up doing what I knew I wanted to do for the rest of my life – the newspaper business.

When you wake up each morning and dread the job that lies ahead of you, then it's time to change jobs. When you wake up each morning and find joy in what lies ahead of you, then you know you have the right job for you. I wake up happy each day!

As children, my brothers and I, we did not receive an allowance at home. We got paid for working at the newspaper business. If we didn't work, we didn't get any money. That's one lesson that too many young people have missed, now a days.

We began work at a young age. At age

three, I was taught how to opaue the negatives. Red pencil, light table and a negative – it's just like coloring. Picking up paperclips, pens, rubber bands and such off the floor was my other "main" job (and of course I'm sure a "busy" job for my parents to give me).

By age five to six (the age of being taught to read), I was taught how to type on the typesetter. I could type out the words for the advertising, take it into the darkroom and develop it. I was also taught how to proof-read ads. Other jobs included "busy work" like organizing the clip art books, proof sheet books and border tapes.

Each year as I grew older, so did my abilities to do more "important" things around the office. Making pictures in the darkroom, building ads, pulling tearsheets, stuffing newspapers, addressing newspapers, doing the newspaper route, making PMT's, selling advertising, working wrecks, developing plates and plating up the press. Of course back then we didn't have computers and one of my main jobs was typing the stories.

By the time I entered the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and was put into a typing class, I was already typing 80 wpm correctly. When I was 19 years old I became the main book-keeper of the business.

It seemed easier, sometimes, back then; and looking back it seemed a lot more fun. There was so much to do and you didn't just sit behind a desk and a computer all day, to do it.

We layed out the newspaper with wax and scissors. We used Xacto Knives and rulers. We had border tape and clip-art books that we had to flip page by page to find 'just the right picture.'

There was no time to play on the computer or internet (even if those things had been readily available) for we were all too busy working. No email, no Facebook, no iPhones. We used typewriters, typesetters, film and lots of "good ole sweat."

We worked until 3 a.m. on press deadline nights, just to rush it to the press and rush back to stuff papers, run them through the Addressagrapher and get them to the post office before the mail went out. Tensions ran

high at 3 a.m. But, the next day we were all friends again and late night attitudes were no longer remembered.

We pushed hard all day long and all week long to get the newspaper out. My Daddy never let us slack. Some of his favorite sayings were "Turn your hat around" (hurry up doing what you're doing and get back here to do something else), "10-18" (the law enforcement dispatch signal for hurry up) and "It Don't Rain On Harvey Greene Hill" (rain, snow, sleet or hail – we're gonna get up and go to work – PERIOD).

Newspaper ink gets in your blood, they say. My favorite newspaper jobs, back then, were burning plates, developing plates, plating up the press and running the press. Things I no longer get to do since we don't own a press anymore; and computers have taken a lot of that away from even the printing plants, now. But oh how I love walking into a printing plant and smelling the ink. Brings back memories of days gone by.

Until then..... I'll see you around the town.



#### Stonyfield

Stonyfield is voluntarily recalling 188 six-packs of 4-ounce YoBaby Peach/Pear cups with the code date June 05, 2014, and the UPC code 052159701161, regarding a slight possibility of contamination. The yogurt was shipped to Target stores in Florida and elsewhere, as well as several Walmart stores. Stonyfield has removed the product from shelves and advises consumers who purchased any (they would have been on the shelves on or after April 23, 2014) to return opened and unopened containers to the retailer for a full refund. Consumers with questions should contact Stonyfield Consumer Relations at 1-800-PRO-COWS or email at [crelations@Stonyfield.com](mailto:crelations@Stonyfield.com).

#### Ontel

Ontel is recalling its ISO7X isometric exercise devices, due to handle grips breaking and causing injury. Call Ontel Consumer Services at (800) 245-0511, or visit <http://www.ontel.com> and click on ISO7X Recall Notice for more information.

#### Pier 1 Imports

Pier 1 Imports is recalling its Hanging Star Glass Lanterns due to fire hazard. Heat from the tea light candles can melt the soldering holding the glass panes together and cause the lantern to fall apart. One burned rug has been reported. Call Pier 1 Consumer Services at (800) 245-4595 or visit <http://www.pier1.com> and click on Product Notes and Recalls.

#### Rocky Brands

Rocky Brands is recalling its Georgia Boot steel-toed work shoe. The steel cap does not meet safety standards and can fail to protect the toes. Call Rocky Brands, Inc. at (866) 245-2159 or visit <http://www.rockybrands.com/> and click on Safety Notices for more information.

## Read Your Local Papers Online



Just a reminder to everyone that you can read the actual *Madison County Carrier* and *Madison Enterprise-Recorder* newspapers online.

The online edition of the newspaper (called an e-edition) is available not only on computers, but also on iPads, Kindles, other tablets, iPhones and Android phones.

A one-year subscription to the e-edition is only \$25 per year. The online e-editions become available for viewing every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

If you would like to subscribe to the e-edition and the print edition, you simply need to add five dollars to the cost of the print subscription. Current print subscriptions are \$35 in-county and \$45 out-of-county.

To view a sample of the e-edition, go to [online.greenepublishing.com](http://online.greenepublishing.com).

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## National Security

### Chaplains



**Joe Boyles**  
Guest Columnist

When I entered the military in 1966, I became aware of military chaplains and the houses of worship found on every base. I attended protestant religious services every Sunday conducted by military chaplains. It was common for me to see chaplains in work centers during the week making pastoral contact and counseling those who needed help. I grew to admire their dedication and commitment.

Chaplains served as role models and later, good friends. At the Air Force Academy, a member of the first graduating class (1959) Bob Browning served in the chaplaincy. Our chief of chaplains Roy Terry became the chief chaplain of the Air Force. An Episcopal priest Al Chace took a close interest in me that would foster as the years passed. Later in my career, Jon Wuerffel (father of Heisman Trophy winner Danny) was a close friend and

confidant.

Commanders on the whole were strong supporters of the chaplaincy. It stands to reason that since leadership is vital in the military and leadership techniques are founded on moral and ethical truths that are fundamental to religions like Christianity, religious education and military training went hand-in-glove.

My introduction to the military chaplaincy is nearly a half century old. Things have changed ... and not for the better in my opinion. The "separation of church and state" concept has been used to sledgehammer the chaplaincy, slowly but surely. This grew from a Supreme Court ruling in 1962 that expunged prayer from public schools. Over time, those who oppose religion (or should I say Christianity) have used these arguments to overturn any public display of religion. That's where the "war on Christmas" comes from.

The chaplaincy is not limited to the military. Webster's defines chaplains as religious professionals who minister to secular institutions. Prisons, nursing homes, hospitals, and the like have chaplains, either on staff or in volunteer positions. Many of these institutions set aside space for a

chapel where prayer service and counseling can take place in quiet.

Frequently chaplains are assigned to assist sports teams, particularly at the amateur level. Some coaches are very religious and use that to strengthen their team's moral fiber. One of those coaches is Dabo Sweeney, the head coach of Clemson University's popular football team. Sweeney and Clemson are under fire from an atheist group headquartered in Wisconsin for their open endorsement of Christianity. Never mind that Wisconsin is a thousand miles from South Carolina. Clemson isn't backing down to the outside pressure and I hope they don't. Their answers to the criticism have been on point and measured. I think we'd be better off if people simply minded their own business rather than try to interfere with others.

I realize that Christ teaches us to love our enemies, but that is a difficult task for me when my enemies try to separate me from my love of Christianity. And make no mistake about this – those who are intent on destroying Christianity are my enemies. I would feel a little better if the atheists were equally opposed to all religions, but their ire is primarily directed toward

Christians which I take as a personal affront. Maybe they pick on us because we are taught to love and tolerate our enemies; other religions (Islam for example) aren't nearly as charitable. I have no doubt that the progressive agenda for those who oppose Christianity include expunging all chaplains from the military and destroying crosses in military cemeteries. Literally, their agenda is that extreme.

Many people believe that the Constitution uses the terminology "separation of church and state" but it does not. That is a court interpretation of the first amendment which begins: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." How often we forget or ignore the second clause of that statement. I don't and will exercise that right fiercely until I am no longer able.

Someday when my duties as a parish priest are over, I hope to be a chaplain at some institution, bringing spiritual comfort to those who are facing end of life issues and to their families. Jesus Christ calls us to do such and I can't think of a more meaningful way to witness in my declining years.

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## Robin's Nest

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the harbinger of spring and new life, and the nest as a place of safety and security, captures exactly what the program is about: a place of safety where women can pick up the pieces and learn how to start over, emotionally and economically, with a little help from people who care.

In the words of Beth Fulford, "It is the gift of hope." In fact, the full name of the program is Robin's Nest of Hope Home for Battered Women.

Fulford was addressing the Greenville Town Council to request a letter of support for the proposed program. The organization has applied for a grant to help with the funding, and one of the

grant requirements was a letter of support from the Greenville Town Council.

Robin's Nest will provide not only a place of refuge and counseling, but also job training and placement.

"It's not a one-stop band-aid, but a life-changer," Fulford told the Council.

The location had to remain a secret for the safety of the women who would be served, but Fulford said that a charter would be forthcoming soon. Robin's Nest hopes to serve up to 1,000 clients a year, a number that would also include their children.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the letter of support.

## Stolen

Cont. From Page 1A

time the deputy was able to turn around the Taurus was gone from sight. A BOLO (Be On The Look Out) was issued to all on duty officers.

At 7:15 p.m., a Sergeant of the Madison County Sheriff's Office conducting routine patrol on Lee Avenue in Madison observed a Silver Ford Taurus parked at roadside that matched the description of the previous BOLO. The Sergeant ran the tag on the Taurus and found that the tag was stolen confirming the Taurus to be the same vehicle from the earlier BOLO.

A male subject, identified as Michael Antoine Hill, got into the driver seat of the Taurus in attempt to drive away. The Sergeant activated his blue lights and conducted a traffic stop. The Sergeant approached the Taurus and asked Hill for his identification while informing Hill that the vehicle tag was stolen. Hill told the Sergeant that he did not have any identification. Hill's wallet was observed in the driver's door pouch and retrieved by the Sergeant. Hill con-

firmed the wallet was his but claimed he did not know it was in the car. The wallet contained Hill's State of Florida issued Identification Card. Communications confirmed that Hill did not possess a valid driver license. Hill was placed under arrest and transported to the Madison County Jail. The stolen tag was recovered.

Upon arriving at the County Jail, a Detention Deputy conducted a secondary search of Hills wallet and discovered a small plastic baggy that contained three "Crack Cocaine Rocks." Hill tried to convince the Detention Deputy and Sergeant that the baggy contained Ivory soap that Hill used to wash with. Hill further stated that he forgot it was even in his wallet. A Presumptive Field Test showed positive for cocaine.

Hill was charged with introducing contraband into county detention, driving while license suspended or revoked, the attached tag not assigned to that vehicle, petty/grand theft from vehicle and controlled substance possession with intent to sell.

## Jobless

Cont. From Page 1A

County the rate dropped to 5.6 percent, from the 5.8 percent recorded in February.

The FDEO reports that statewide, 606,000 Floridians were jobless in March out of a labor force of 9,575,000 — not counting those individuals who have given up the search for work or are underemployed or employed only part time.

Per the FDEO, Florida's seasonally adjusted total nonagricultural employment in March was 7,742,900, an increase of 22,900 jobs over the month. Seasonally adjusted means the numbers have been purged of seasonal and other factors that could skew the results.

"Compared to March a year ago, the number of jobs in the state was up by 225,100, an increase of 2.8 percent," the FDEO report states. "Florida's annual job growth rate has exceeded the nation's rate since April 2012."

For Madison County, the 8.5 percent translates into 598 jobless persons out of a labor force of 7,053, compared with 594 jobless persons out of a labor force of 6,990 in February, when the rate was also 8.5 percent.

In March 2013, the comparable figures were 631 jobless persons out of a labor force of 7,116, when the unemployment rate was 8.9 percent.

For Jefferson County, the 5.6 percent rate translates into 358 jobless persons out of a labor force of 6,429, compared with 370 jobless persons out of a labor force of 6,409 in February, when the rate was 5.8 percent.

In March 2013, the comparable figures were 383 jobless persons out of a workforce of 6,256, when the unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

"February 2014 was the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with positive annual job growth after the state lost jobs for over three years," the FDEO states.

The industry gaining the most jobs was professional and business services, up 48,000 jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities, up 47,500 jobs; leisure and hospitality, up 42,100 jobs; construction, up 41,000 jobs; private education and health services, up 15,300 jobs; financial activities, up 12,200 jobs; manufacturing, up 9,700 jobs; other services, up 6,800 jobs; information, up 2,200 jobs; and total government, up 300 jobs — the first time in a long time that this sector hasn't lost jobs.

The FDEO attributes the industry job gains in part to "to increases in services to buildings and dwellings; food and beverage stores; food services and drinking places; specialty trade contractors; ambulatory healthcare services; insurance carriers and related activities; fabricated metal product manufacturing; membership associations and organizations; telecommunication; and local government." Monroe and Walton counties had the state's lowest unemployment rate in March at 3.8 percent, followed by Okaloosa at 4.8 percent; and Alachua and Sumter counties at 5.0 percent.

Flagler County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 9.3 percent, followed by Hendry County at 9.1 percent; Hamilton County at 8.7 percent; and Hernando, Madison and Putnam counties at 8.5 percent each.

For the third consecutive month, no county in the state had double-digit unemployment in March.

## Unhealthy

Cont. From Page 1A

ranks Madison County in 56<sup>th</sup> place out of Florida's 67 counties, with St. Johns County at number one as Florida's healthiest county.

The report makes the point that people living in the least healthy counties are twice as likely to have shorter lives than people living in the healthiest counties; and that the number of teen births and children living in poverty are also twice as many in the least healthy counties as the healthier counties.

The report underscores that "much of what affects health occurs outside of the doctor's office" and that factors such as education, jobs, income and environment play a critical role in people's health and longevity.

The rankings were compiled using county-level measures from a variety of national data sources and resulted in two overall ranks for every county in United States. The two overall ranks are listed as health outcomes, or how healthy a county currently is; and health factors, how healthy a county will be in the future.

Madison County ranked 56 in health outcomes and 61 in health factors.

Additionally, the report offers individual county data on a variety of factors that affect health, such as education, access to healthier foods, air pollution levels, income, and rates of smoking, obesity and teen births.

According to the report, Madison County ranked 58 in length of life; 61 in quality of life; 51 in health behaviors; 58 in clinical care; 61 in social and economic factors; and 24 in physical environment.

A sampling of the pertinent local data:

- 18 percent of the population in Madison County is in poor or fair health, compared with 10 percent in the top U.S. performers and 16 percent in Florida.
- 21 percent of adults in Madison County smoke, compared with 14 percent in the top U.S. performers and 18 percent in Florida.
- 36 percent of adults in Madison County are obese, compared with 25 percent in the top U.S. performers and 26 percent in Florida.
- 30 percent of people in Madison County are physically inactive, compared with 21 percent in the top U.S. performers and 24 percent in Florida.
- 47 percent of people in Madison County have access to exercise opportunities, compared with 85 percent in the top U.S. performers and 78 percent in Florida.
- 39 percent of driving deaths in Madison County are alcohol impaired related, compared with 14 percent in the top

U.S. performers and 29 percent in Florida.

- 23 percent of Madison County residents are uninsured, compared with 11 percent in the top U.S. performers and 25 percent in Florida.

- For every primary care physician in Madison County, there are 6,372 persons, compared with one physician per 1,051 in the top U.S. performers and one per 1,426 in Florida.

- 57 percent of high school students in Madison County graduate, compared with 70 percent in Florida (No figures given for the U.S.).

- 36 percent of children in Madison County live in poverty, compared with 13 percent in the top U.S. performers and 26 percent in Florida.

- 24 percent of people in Madison County have inadequate social support, compared with 14 percent in the top U.S. performers and 22 percent in Florida.

- 45 percent of children in Madison County live in single-parent households, compared with 20 percent in the top U.S. performers and 37 percent in Florida.

- 37 percent of workers in Madison County have long commutes and drive alone, compared with 15 percent in the top U.S. performers and 37 percent in Florida.

- Overall, the report finds that teen birth rates across the nation have decreased about 25 percent since 2007; that the rate of preventable hospital stays decreased about 20 percent from 2003 to 2011; that smoking rates dropped from 21 percent to 18 percent between 2005 and 2012; and that completion of at least some college increased from 59 percent to 64 percent between 2005 and 2012.

- Others of the report's overall findings:

- Almost one in five households in the United States are overcrowded and pose a severe cost burden or provide inadequate facilities for cooking, cleaning or bathing, with mention of parts of the South in particular.

- More than three-quarters of U.S. workers drive to work alone and 33 percent drive longer than half an hour each way, the connection to health being that driving contributes to physical inactivity, obesity and pollution.

- People in many parts of the country face food insecurity (or the threat of hunger) and limited access to healthy foods.

- The ability of mental health providers in the healthiest counties in each state is 1.3 times higher than in the least healthy counties.

- Access to parks or recreational facilities in the healthiest counties is 1.4 times higher than in the least healthy counties.

## Scam Alert

Cont. From Page 1A

ment. These are just a few examples and do not even begin to scratch the surface.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office works hard to identify and publicize every type of Scam, but as soon as the community is made aware of any one Scam, the criminal organization will simply change their methods. With social media and the Internet playing such a huge role in everyone's daily lives, it becomes hard to track the origin of the Scam or the criminals responsible. It is not uncommon for these criminals who target victims in our county to be located in other states or even in another country.

If you are contacted by phone, email or any other means claiming you will be held criminally or civilly liable unless you pay fines, fees or

penalties please contact the Madison County Sheriff's Office and request an officer to assist you in verifying if the claim against you is from a legitimate source. Do not respond to the demands and certainly do not be too quick to send any personal information or form of payment without first verifying the source of the claim. Make note of the phone number or email address that contacted you and then contact us and let us help. Avoid being an easy victim for these criminal groups. If you feel that you have been targeted by a Scam and even if you realized the attempt was a Scam please contact the Madison County Sheriff's Office at 973-4001 or 973-4002. Your information may prevent your neighbor from becoming a victim as well.



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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## Obituary

Rev. Jake S. Phillips, 94, went home to be with his Lord Friday, April 25 at his home in Madison, surrounded by his wife, daughter and Big Bend Hospice caregivers.

Jacob Silvanus Phillips was born on May 6, 1919 in Granite Falls, North Carolina to Parks Lee and Eva Ellen Moore Phillips. Welcoming his birth were siblings, Oscar (Ott), Edna and Ethel. When Jake was three-years-old, his youngest brother, Paul was born. The Phillips lived "in the mill village," part of the year and on "the farm," at Dudley Shoals part of the year. They attended Concord Baptist Church and Jake served as a deacon.

Most folks worked at Shufford Mills as did Jake for a while, beginning at age sixteen. Jake and Edna were married June 11, 1938, and their daughter Jean was born in 1939. Jake took his family to Wilmington, N.C. to work in the shipyard but moved back to Granite Falls, where he worked at the Granite Falls Machine Shop and later sold insurance. It was during this period of time that Jake sang lead in the Songsters Quartet.

Jake served his country during World War II as an automatic rifleman with the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Company F, of the United States Army from September 1, 1944 to April 19, 1946. He was awarded the American Theater Service Medal EAME Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and a World War II Victory medal.

It was at Ridgcrest Baptist Assembly, N.C. in 1957 that Jake heard and responded to the call of the Lord to move to Monroeville, Monroe County, Alabama to serve as associate pastor at the Southside Baptist Church. In 1960, he moved to Evergreen and to the Conecuh Baptist Association. When he came to Covington Baptist Association, Covington County, Alabama in March of 1964, it was with deep conviction that God was calling him to serve Him in that place. West Highland Baptist Church, Andalusia, Alabama was Jake and Edna's home church where they faithfully served for thirty plus years. During his tenure, he was elected President of Directors of Missions for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. When he resigned June 30, 1984, he did so with the conviction that God

was once again leading him to retirement. His retirement as DOM did not include retirement from preaching and teaching of God's Word, for the call to preach is a lifelong call. He continued to do interim work in Alabama until he moved to Florida in 1995 after the death of his first wife Edna. After moving to Madison and finding himself without a helpmeet, he courted and married Judy Wheeler from Andalusia, Alabama. Even in Florida, he did interim work and taught the Men's Bible Class at Madison First Baptist Church. Even into his early nineties he was still serving faithfully.

Brother Jake is survived by his wife, Judy C. Phillips of fourteen years; daughter Jean P. McWilliams; grandson Clayte McWilliams (Vickie) of Madison; granddaughter, Linda M. Boyer (Ron); great grandchildren, Carley Luke and Jake Luke of Darien, Ga.; stepsons: Joseph Wheeler of Valdosta, Ga. and John Wheeler and family of Andalusia, Al.; Sister-in-law, Rilla B. Phillips (Paul) of Granite Falls, N.C., a host of nieces, nephews and extended families in North Carolina, Alabama, etc., countless "preacher boys," ministers and other friends. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 57 years, Edna McGee Phillips, his parents, Parks Lee and Eva Ellen Moore Phillips and his siblings Ethel P. Rum, Oscar Phillips, Edna P. Weaver, Paul Phillips and his son-in-law Buddy McWilliams.

The family received friends on Monday, April 28 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., at Beggs Funeral Home in Madison. A celebration of his life was held on Tuesday, April 29 at 11 a.m., at First Baptist Church in Madison. Internment will be at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Madison.

For those wishing to make memorial donations, these may be made to GuideStone Financial Resources at 2401 Cedar Spring Rd, Dallas, Tx. 75201-1498, designated to ARMS, Big Bend Hospice at 1723 Mahan Center Blvd, Tallahassee, Fl., 32308-5428 or Madison First Baptist, P.O. Box 307, Madison, Fl., 32340, designated to the mission fund.

Beggs Funeral Home Madison is in charge of the arrangements (850) 973-2258. You may send your condolences to the family by visiting our website [www.beggsfuneral.com](http://www.beggsfuneral.com).

## FAMILY FIRST CLEARS ANOTHER HURDLE

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

When Gina Sapp and Miki Richardson opened their Family First Wellness Clinic in the old Four Freedoms Clinic location, their practice quickly grew, and it wasn't long before they realized they needed a larger facility in order to better serve their patients. Also, the new facility needed to have enough on-site parking so that their patients, especially the elderly ones, wouldn't have to cross streets in downtown Madison to get to their appointments.

They set their sights on the old senior center building as the location that would best fit their criteria for housing their growing practice, and approached the county commission to see if the county would consider selling it to them for below the market price, under a provision that allows such a sale if it results in an enterprise promoting the county's economic development or contributes to its healthcare. The Family First Wellness Clinic met those requirements.

Along the way, they discovered

that a small sliver of the building actually rested on city property, meaning that they had to petition the city to sign a quit-claim deed, allowing the negotiations to continue. The City Commission obliged, because the sliver of land was small, consisting mostly of right-of-way setbacks.

At the County Commission meeting April 23, the deed and closing papers were ready for the board's examination and approval. The deed calls for the Family First Wellness Clinic to occupy the building no later than Feb. 1, 2015, and remain there in continuous operation for at least five years, or a reverter clause (because of the below-market sale price) reverts the property ownership back to the county.

Comments by commission members who had spoken with representatives of Family First indicated that the practice would not have a problem moving to the new facility by the deadline, and because it was providing a much-needed service to Madison residents, was likely to be around for a while.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the deed and the closing documents.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 24, 2014

Almost there...in a few weeks or months, after renovations, the old senior center building will be occupied by the Family First Wellness Clinic.

## Community Calendar

### April 30

The Healthy Start Coalition of Madison, Jefferson and Taylor Counties invites everyone to a community forum "State of the Infant" on Wednesday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. The coalition will be discussing the impact of Medicaid reform and addressing the health and wellbeing of Madison County infants. For more information, contact Donna Hagan at the Healthy Start Coalition at (850) 948-2741 or [dhagan@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:dhagan@healthystartjmt.org).

### May 1

A spaghetti diner fundraiser will be held for Tammy Floyd, who is currently battling breast cancer, on Thursday, May 1, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., on the Madison County Courthouse lawn. All proceeds

from the dinner will go to Floyd and her family to help cover expenses incurred with her treatment. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by contacting Selena Phillips at (850) 464-2667 or (850) 491-4968.

### May 1

The Madison Veterinary Clinic will be holding an Open House Thursday, May 1, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Doctors and staff invite everyone to drop by for a hot dog and a tour of the expanded and remodeled facilities at 119 SW Captain Brown Rd. in Madison. For more information call (850) 973-6936.

### May 3

A Preparedness Workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at New Testament Christian

Center on Hwy 90 East. Anyone interested in preparing for a disaster or economic hard times come out. Bring a bag lunch and child care is available. A love offering will be received for the speakers and childcare. For more information call Cindi Perron at (850) 464-2514.

### May 15

The Branford Camera Club will be holding their 3rd Annual Spring Photo Critique with Master Photographer, Chuck Neubauer, judging this year's critique. Participation is open to the public. Novice to professional photographers are welcome. For more information or to receive a copy of the event guidelines, call Program Chair Carolyn Hogue at (386) 935-2044.

Have something you would like to add to the Community Calendar? Simply call Greene Publishing, Inc. at (850) 973-4141 or email your information to [Rose@greenepublishing.com](mailto:Rose@greenepublishing.com).

## Thank You!

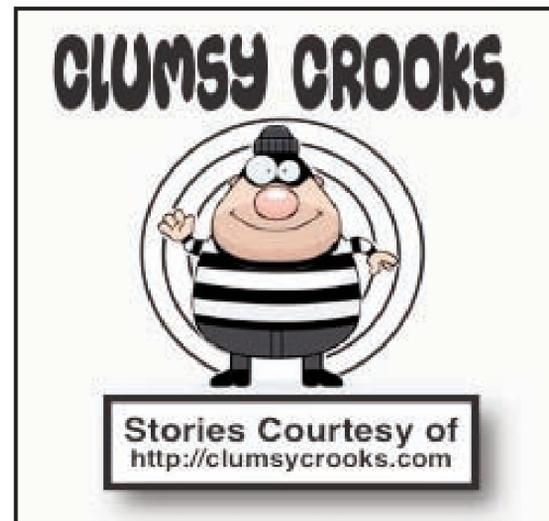
The family of the late Roger Lee Monlyn wishes to express our most heartfelt thank you to all those who supported us through the difficult time surrounding his passing. We are so grateful for the family members, friends and colleagues that

gave us strength. Thank you for your many acts of kindness, words of comfort, flowers and messages of sympathy in our time of bereavement. Thank you.

*The family of the late Roger Lee Monlyn*

### Florida Woman Goes On Rampage After Storeowner Won't Exchange Dollar Bills For Her Jar Of Coins

This past Monday, a woman became furious with a storeowner when he declined to exchange dollar bills for her jar of coins. Surveillance video shows the woman aggressively pointing at the owner of the A Plus Food Mart in Mt. Dora, Florida before knocking items off the counter. As News 13 reports, the outburst only got worse from there.



### Worker Sends 1,000 Ducklings To Boss's Home In Wages Dispute

Builder Chiu Xiang arranged for the 1,130 live ducklings to be dropped in the home of his employer, Hung Bin, in a dispute over wages.

The 60-year-old, who worked for Bin for three years, said he was owed \$300 in unpaid wages after quitting his job in China's Sichuan province last year, according to the Shanghaiist.

# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## ROTARY CLUB'S PETE BUCHER: MEETING THE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CHALLENGE



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 23, 2014

Rotary Clubs all over face a challenge with growing their membership in the coming year, a challenge that President Elect Pete Bucher feels the Madison Rotary Club is certainly up for.

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Madison Rotary Club President Elect Pete Bucher took the podium at the April 23 meeting to tell the members about several other types of Rotary Clubs he had visited over the years. There were clubs that met in the morning and clubs that met in the afternoon or evening, as well as during the lunch hour as the Madison club does. Large clubs, small clubs, and clubs that owned their own building where they met.

He even found clubs that met at different bars. Usually, it was a sports bar or something similar; and instead of being served a meal, they had a cocktail hour with snacks.

But all the Rotary Clubs he visited did seem to have one thing in common, and that was either declining or stagnant membership numbers.

The challenge, as Bucher sees it, is how to attract new members in the coming year. It isn't an issue faced by just local or regional clubs. National and international clubs

are facing the same thing. "Why do people join Rotary?" he asked. When he has asked that of other Rotarians, he has found the common theme among them is not just what the club offers for them, but for what it offers the community.

The Rotary Club seems to have a special drive to raise money to help the community, and it seems that this is what stands out for a lot of people, Bucher told the audience. The thing that he likes best about the Madison Club's efforts is that this is done mainly through big fundraiser events like the Chili Dinner and the Prime Rib Dinner; things that bring people together.

Another reason people mentioned was that Rotary just stood out in the forefront of other civic clubs for one reason or another; and then there was the friendship, the sense of camaraderie among the members. One example was the gentleman Bucher had met in Tallahassee who chose the larger Northside Rotary club to join, because he wanted to be around and interact with as many other people as possible.

When seeking new members, it was also inherently important to bring in business people and build up comradship with them and getting them to bring their skills and expertise into the club, especially when exploring the challenge of getting new businesses and jobs to move into the area.

He offered the example of learning about something new by relating his encounter with a Rotarian from Monticello, with whom he struck up a conversation. The gentleman's business card said that he was in the "sympathetic reconstruction industry," a term Bucher had never

heard of before. It involved updating old homes, while remaining sympathetic to the integrity of their original style and structure.

What do people get from joining? Developing leadership skill or public speaking skill can be developed or honed working with other members on projects or working with the community.

"It helps us, through what we do here, to be a little better at it," he said. "We educate ourselves here and talk about what we learn at Rotary. People hear about it and maybe they want to join...but they haven't been asked yet. We need to be Rotary-proactive: talk up Rotary and invite people to join."

One of the things he was really pleased to see about the Rotary International was what they were doing with the PolioPlus project on a global scale. "I think that's great - what we're doing about polio," a disease that has been eradicated in all but a handful of countries.

People are interested in Rotary. He has seen this from the conversations people strike up with him when he wears his Rotary pin out in public or when he travels. There is also a sense of camaraderie and friendship that emerges when Rotarians who are otherwise strangers to each other will readily strike up conversations about the club, its projects and its people and find that they have a lot of common ground.

Being proactive about seeking new members is one thing Bucher would like the club to put in the forefront, both now and later, when he takes the helm as the new president.

"It's important that we continue to do those things that make this organization great," he said. "It's a collaborative effort."

## Kiwanis Presents Check To 4-H



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 24, 2014

Lucile Day, representing the Madison 4-H Clubs, accepts a \$370 scholarship check on behalf of 4-H from Madison Kiwanis Club President Diane Head. The funds from Kiwanis will allow two children to attend 4-H summer camp this year.

## MCCS Awards Days Scheduled In May

By Rose Klein  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison County Central School has finalized their calendar for their end-of-year awards program. Awards will be given to students who: have achieved highest averages for each academic subject, are on the honor roll, have perfect attendance, have good citizenship and have achieved an Accelerated Reader status, to name a few.

The Honors Programs will be as follows:

- Third-Fifth Grades, Wednesday, May 28, 9 a.m.
  - PreK-Second Grades, Thursday, May 29, 9 a.m.
  - Sixth and Seventh Grades, Thursday, May 29, 9 a.m.
  - Eighth Grade, Thursday, May 29, 6 p.m.
- All programs will be in the gym.



## In Loving Memory

### S. Joseph DeMaggio



**Super Joe**  
God saw you getting tired;  
A cure was not yet seen.  
So He put His arms around you  
and whispered,  
Joe come along with Me.  
We watched and saw you  
pass away.  
Not even our love could  
make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped  
beating,  
Our Super Joe was now  
at rest.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But God always knows what's  
Best.  
You're Heaven bound forever,  
Well deserved.  
In our hearts for all eternity.  
Wife Luci & Entire Family  
Amen

## Meet Your Local E.M.S.

### Jane Williams

**Title:** Paramedic

**Hometown:** Steinhatchee, FL.

**Why She Chose E.M.S.:** "Because I wanted to help people."

**Favorite Book Genre:** "Scientific books like Carl Sagan."

**Hobbies:** Biking the Four Freedoms Trail, hiking, painting and reading.

**Family:** A five-year-old son.

**Sum Yourself Up:** Quiet.



## The 2014 James Madison Constitution Dinner

With Special Guests:

Sat. May 10<sup>th</sup>

6-8 p.m.

(doors open At 5:30 p.m.)

Location:

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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## Florida Department Of Health Advises Madison County Residents Of Flood Precautions

- ~ Avoid driving through moving, standing water ~
- ~ Wash and rinse exposed skin with soap, disinfected water ~
- ~ Avoid drinking potentially contaminated water; boil, disinfect water as appropriate ~



Recent heavy rainfall in North Florida and South Georgia has resulted in localized flooding in areas of Madison County. The Florida Department of Health in Madison County recommends the following precautions to those residents impacted by recent flooding.

During flooding, the greatest threat comes from moving water. The deeper the moving water, the greater the threat. People should avoid driving in moving or standing water, regardless of the size of the

vehicle. Flood waters can rise and pool on streets and throughout neighborhoods. Be aware of the following:

- Road surfaces become disguised and drivers may unknowingly steer into a deep body of water, such as a canal or pond.
- Electricity from streetlights and power poles may be present in standing water, causing a deadly shock to anyone coming in contact with it.
- Children playing in potentially contaminated standing water can become sick or be bitten by snakes or

floating insects.

• People coming into contact with floodwaters should thoroughly wash and rinse skin with soap and disinfected water. Residents in flood-affected areas should take precautions to avoid drinking potentially contaminated water. A flooded well may contain disease-causing bacteria and may not be safe to drink.

To disinfect water, DOH recommends one of the following:

- Boil water before use, holding it at a rolling boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, brushing teeth, washing food, cooking or washing dishes.
- Disinfect water by adding eight drops (about 1/8 tsp.) of plain, unscented household bleach (four to six percent active ingredient) per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure once. Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination.

Use bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

For information on what to do if your well is flooded, please visit <http://www.florida-health.gov/healthy-environments/private-well-testing/index.html> or contact your local health department.

## Four Hundred Participants Make 4-H Day At The Capitol A Success

Story Submitted

More than 400 Florida 4-H youth and volunteers from as far south as Miami-Dade County and as far northwest as Escambia County arrived in Tallahassee Wednesday, 4-H day at the Capitol, an annual state event, took place April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Participants were adorned in "4-H green" shirts with the words "100 years of Extension." 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Florida partnership between state, federal and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public.

During 4-H Day at the Capitol, youth demonstrated their knowledge of what's going on in their communities and the challenges they face. Participants met with lawmakers and other elected officials including Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera.

4-H Day at the Capitol gives 4-H youth and volunteers the opportuni-

ty to share with their legislators and government officials the positive impacts of the Florida 4-H Program and learn more about how government works. In the 2012-2013 4-H year, Florida 4-H youth completed over 140,000 projects in the area of citizenship and leadership development.

"4-H Day at the Capitol is a wonderful opportunity to teach our youth about the importance of the process of our governmental bodies as well as teaching our community and legislators the importance of youth voice," said Becky Bennett, Madison County Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Founded in 1909, the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program works annually with more than 220,000 young people, ages 5-18, and nearly 19,000 volunteers. Headquartered in Gainesville, Florida 4-H is the statewide youth development program of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.





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## Win A New 2013 F150 Truck And Help Timberland Ford Shooting Victims



Photo Submitted

Pictured above is the new 2013 F150 XL truck that will be raffled off on June 28 to benefit shooting survivors John Mahoney, Mike Cook and Deputy Robert Lundy.

By Rose Klein  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Purchasing a \$10 raffle ticket could make you the owner of a brand-new 2013 F150 XL Ford truck. Timberland Ford in Perry is donating the truck for the raffle in order to help the survivors from the Feb. 5 shooting that occurred at the dealership. All proceeds from ticket purchases will go towards John Mahoney, Mike Cook and Deputy Robert Lundy's recov-

ery.

The drawing for the truck will be held Saturday, June 28 at 8 p.m., at Scallopalooza (Roy's Restaurant) in Steinhatchee. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win.

Tickets can be purchased at the Madison County Sheriff's Office, located at 2364 US 90. For more information, call the Sheriff's Office and speak with Nancy or visit the Built Tough and Standing Strong Facebook page.

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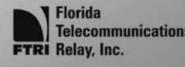
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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## COAST 2 COAST TOUR STOPS IN MADISON



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jessie Box, April 24, 2014

Duane Sommerville, from Indiana, stands behind his bicycle that has been his steady companion since San Diego.

By Jessie R. Box  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Bubba's Pampered Pedalers, Coast 2 Coast tour stopped in Madison, Thursday, April 24 on their way to St. Augustine. NFCC hosted them for their nights stay in Madison. The bicyclists slept in the basketball court of the Colin P. Kelly gym. The tour started March 8 in San Diego, Ca. with the bicyclist dipping the rear tire of their bicycle in the Pacific Ocean and when they reach the Atlantic Ocean, they will dip the front tire of their bicycle in the ocean.

It is a 52-day tour and all the bicyclists have to worry about is pedaling their bicycles. Bubba and his crew take care of the rest. The crew

stores all of the bicyclist gear on a truck and when the destination of the day is reached, they will unload the luggage, blow up the air mattresses and if they are staying outside, they set up the tents.

Hetty Slagboon and John Neelemaat came from the Netherlands to participate in the Coast 2 Coast tour.

"We were looking for a cycling tour in the Northeast of America for fall but then we saw this one and for a joke I said to my husband, 'what do you think of this one,' and he said 'let's do it,'" said Slagboon.

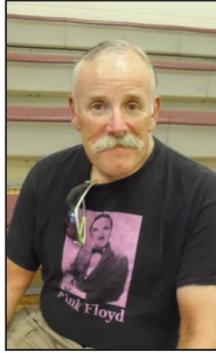
"It's a really nice trip and very well organized," said Neelemaat. "We are not used to so much pampering."

The crew also offers bike

maintenance. If someone has a flat tire, the crew will come to the bicyclist and fix it for them. Every 20 miles there is a rest station set up. The station has snacks, cold beverages and chairs for the bicyclist to sit and rest before the next part of the journey.

There are 40 riders and 18 crewmembers. On crew there is also a chef who prepares the riders with breakfast and dinner. The bicyclist's will stop for their lunch during the day's ride.

"I'm a tourist, not a racer," said A.D. Carson, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "As a touring bicyclist you look for opportunities and ways to both see things and to stretch yourself," said Carson about why he wanted to join the Coast 2 Coast tour.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jessie Box, April 24, 2014

A.D. Carson from Milwaukee, Wisconsin was among the first people to arrive at NFCC after traveling from Tallahassee.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jessie Box, April 24, 2014

Hetty Slagboon and John Neelemaat just got in for the day after riding from Tallahassee to Madison on the Coast 2 Coast tour.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jessie Box, April 24, 2014

Lil Leber stands behind her bicycle that has been her transportation since San Diego, Ca. This is her first Coast 2 Coast trip but she has participated in BubbaFest, another tour put on by the same company, four times.

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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## 4-H Holds 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day At NFCC



Photo Submitted

Justin Kania and Dave Norton of the Florida Department of Forestry take the lead at one of the educational stations devoted to the importance of forests and woodlands.

Submitted By Becky Bennett

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 220 of Madison County's third graders descend-

ed upon the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Madison County 4-H Ecology Field Day at NFCC for a day of hands-on educational activities in science,

ecology and environmental protection. This event is a collaboration between the Madison County School Board, North Florida Community College and the Madison County Extension Office 4-H.

Each year Madison County third graders make the trip to North Florida Community College to experience the Ladell Brothers Outdoor Environmental Center, while learning about ecosystems, human impact on the environment and how they can preserve and protect these precious resources. Madison County High School's FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) and Madison County 4-H student volunteers led various groups of participants through

each of the seven hands-on educational ecology stations. Each station educated students about a different topic, including stewardship of the land, plant identification and use, reptile and fish habitats, water quality, forestry, entomology and beekeeping.

Instructors included: Dave Norton, from RockTenn Corrugated Packaging and Recycling; Justin Kania and Sharon Fitz-Coy from the Florida Department of Forestry; Sharon Fitz-Coy from the University of Florida/IFAS Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences; Tony Hogg of Full Moon Apiary demonstrated beekeeping; representatives from the Learning in the Florida Environment (L.I.F.E.) group with the Florida De-

partment of Environmental Protection on water quality; Jan Peters with Florida A&M Entomology Department; Clay Olsen with Taylor County Extension and his volunteers, and finally, representatives from Florida Farm Bureau demonstrated the various uses of local crops and the importance of being stewards of the land.

Madison County 4-H Ecology Field Day is a long-standing tradition that educates youth on life skills and the importance of being good stewards of the environment while exposing them to their local community college campus. This event allows students to translate classroom knowledge to real world experiences. By providing opportunities for our youth to

have hands on experiences, we are improving their chances of high academic achievement both in the classroom and on standardized testing such as the FCAT, SAT and ACT. Due to the program's effectiveness and focus on science, engineering, technology and math, other organizations have been inspired over the years to develop similar events for their local youth.

We could not continue our efforts without everyone's contributions to create a day of fun and exploration for Madison County third graders. We would like to thank each of the instructors, teachers, volunteers, coordinators and most importantly the third graders of Madison County for making this event possible.

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Photo Submitted

Representatives from the Madison Farm Bureau speak to the students about local crops and the role farming plays in the environment, and the way both are interconnected.



Photo Submitted

On the right, facing the children, Clay Olsen, of the Taylor County Extension Office, with the help of one of his master gardener volunteers on the left, talk to the third graders about caring for the environment at one of the seven educational stations.



Photo Submitted

Learning to identify plants and animals was the topic of another education station.

# SCHOOL

## STEM Scholars Finish Up At NFCC



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 4, 2014

Winners of the STEM Solar Design Challenge, who designed structures that created the highest temperatures in water inside of their designs, standing left to right, are: Caleb Wentworth, Taylor; Breonna Cambric, Jefferson; Camryn Alderman, Madison; William Blue, Taylor; Kaitlyn Farnell, Madison and Roxanna Whitman, Madison.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 4, 2014

Winners of the Solar Design Challenge, who created structures that caused the most temperature change, standing left to right, are: Kaydee Keen, Taylor; Ja'Quantae Thomas, Madison and Estela Valdovinos, Jefferson.

By Rose Klein  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The FloridaLearns STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Scholars program held their last design challenge for the Madison, Jefferson and Taylor county STEM students this school year.

The design challenges were created to give rural students the ability to be paired with mentors who could give them hands-on experiences with STEM professionals and expose them to rigorous courses, leadership training and opportunity to collaborate with other STEM students.

This latest challenge, the Solar Collector Design Challenge, had students design and construct a solar collector that held water, and compete as teams for creativity and effectiveness of raising water temperature. Participants from Madison, Jefferson and Taylor counties worked as teams and were given 20 minutes to sketch a design and then given the necessary materials to construct their creation. They had 30 minutes to take their design from a two-dimensional drawing to a three-dimensional structure before transitioning it to an outside area. Teams were then able

to test the effectiveness of their design by collecting data of rising or falling temperatures of the water, included in the design, for a total of 45 minutes. After collecting some data, students had a lunch break and upon their return, found several of the solar structures blown over, and unfortunately, causing incorrect readings for some of the students. After teams and their designs were back inside, they had 20 minutes to develop their presentation and then three to five minutes to share their findings to the rest of the group.

When speaking to students who participated in the challenge, Darby Thompson from Madison County High School, a third year participant in the FloridaLearns activities said she had learned more with the hands-on activities than if she had been just in the classroom. She further stated she could now take the knowledge she was



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 4, 2014

The team who had the most creative design of the day constructed a parabola, but was unable to get accurate readings due to the windy day. The parabola team, standing left to right are: Darby Thompson, Madison; Savannah Salter, Madison and Anthony Carter, Taylor.

taught and learn how to apply it in the real world. Savannah Salter, also from Madison, said it was only her first year doing the activities, but added, "I love it!"

Students who are

involved in the FloridaLearns STEM Scholars program will have the opportunity for more activities this summer. The Panhandle Area Educational Consortium will be offering workplace exper-

iences at various businesses around the state. For more information on the FloridaLearns initiative, visit their website at [www.floridallearnsstemscholars.org](http://www.floridallearnsstemscholars.org).

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# SCHOOL

## “Good News!” At Madison Academy's Spring Fling 2014



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

In a farewell performance, the eighth grade class sings the “Quadratic Formula” song. Next year, they'll be leaving Madison Academy for high school.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

The 3K class rocks the “Thrift Shop” look.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

The May King and Queen, sixth graders Payton Davis and Maryn Richardson, preside over the Spring Fling 2014 proceedings.

By Lynette Norris  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

“Good News” was the title and the theme running throughout Madison Academy's Spring Fling 2014. Following the May Pole Dance and Coronation Ceremony for the King (Payton Davis) and Queen (Maryn Richardson), each class performed to music for a crowd of parents, relatives and friends. Skits by the eighth grade class provided transitions for each number, segueing from one bit of “good news” to the next.

An enthusiastic rendition of “Good News,” sung by the entire student body seated in groups around the gym, closed the show on an upbeat note, but the fun was just beginning. Moments later, they adjourned to the soccer field for a day of spring fling 2014 fun.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

Strumming on palm frond ukeleles, the 5K class sing “Hosanna.”



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

All the second grade animals gather around to hear “What Does the Fox Say?”



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 25, 2014

“And it's one, two, three strikes you're out....” The third grade pantomimes “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.”

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# HEALTH

## Madison Is Encouraging Local Residential Buildings To Go Smoke-free

**- Smoke-free Policies Can Protect Residents From Secondhand Smoke And Smoking-Related Fires -**



Story Submitted by Florida Department of Health Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida.

Smoke-free multiunit housing, a growing trend throughout the country, is making its way to Florida.

Across the state, there are more than 500 smoke-free multiunit housing properties and 73,000 smoke-free units.

Twenty-two residential properties in nearby Leon County have already implemented smoking-free policies. "There's a fear

of alienating resident smokers, but most communities that have taken the leap consider smoke-free housing an edge over the competition and have determined that there is a market for this product" according to Chip Tatum, the former Government Affairs Director for the Florida Apartment Association.

For property managers and landlords, smoke-free policies can have economic benefits. More than 80 percent of Floridians are non-smokers. Many

people who do smoke do not permit smoking in their homes. Given these numbers, many properties have very successfully marketed their smoke-free policy as an amenity, not a restriction. Smokefree policies can save money by eliminating the need to repair or replace carpeting, floors, fixtures, countertops or appliances damaged by burns or nicotine stains. At the end of a lease, smoke-free units require less turnover time due to fewer preparation and repainting needs.

In one Florida survey of 421 managers of smoke-free properties, 99.5 percent of the managers agreed that smoke-free policies do not hurt occupancy and 30.1 percent believed that they increased occupancy.

Tobacco smoke can move along air ducts, through cracks in the walls and floors, through elevator shafts and along plumbing and electrical lines affecting units that are nearby. Therefore, there are also numerous benefits for residents as tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, hundreds of which are tox-

ic and at least 70 known to cause cancer. Exposure, even for short periods of time, can be dangerous.

"A home should be a safe place for everyone, especially for children, people with existing health conditions, and the elderly who are more vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke," said Leila C. Rykard, Human Program Services Specialist. "By making sure that residential buildings are 100 percent smoke-free, property managers are protecting tenants from the dangers of toxic smoke and from the risk of deadly smoking-related fires."

The following are some of the reasons why it's critical to protect tenants from exposure to secondhand smoke:

- **Secondhand smoke exposure** is causally linked to heart disease, stroke, several cancers, lower respiratory illness and impaired lung function.

- Each year, among U.S. nonsmokers, exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 33,000 premature deaths from heart disease and about 3,400 premature deaths from lung cancer.

- Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work increase their risk of developing

heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and their risk of developing lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.

- **Secondhand smoke** can trigger an asthma attack. A severe asthma attack can put a child's life in danger.

- In the first two years of life, children exposed to secondhand smoke have more than a 50 percent increased risk of getting bronchitis and pneumonia.

- Infants exposed to secondhand smoke are at a greater risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). SIDS is the sudden, unexplained, unexpected death of an infant in the first year of life. SIDS is the leading cause of death in otherwise healthy infants.

Secondhand smoke is not the only danger associated with tobacco use at home. Smoking-related fires are the leading cause of fire deaths in residential buildings. These fires are eight times more likely to result in death than fires that start from another source. Smoking-related fires in residential buildings result in an average of approximately 365 deaths, 925 injuries and \$326 million in property loss each year.

For more information, visit [tobaccofreeflorida.com/smokefreehousing](http://tobaccofreeflorida.com/smokefreehousing).

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# AROUND MADISON COUNTY

## MADISON VETERINARY CLINIC TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

Dr. Lewis, the owner of the Madison Veterinary Clinic, is pleased with the new equipment and the re-modeling that the business has received.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

Sheila Martin, who works in the grooming department, is very excited about the new facilities and space that she has received from the renovation of the building.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

Amanda Oberschlake is shown organizing the new cabinets that now hold preventatives, grooming supplies and food for the customers.

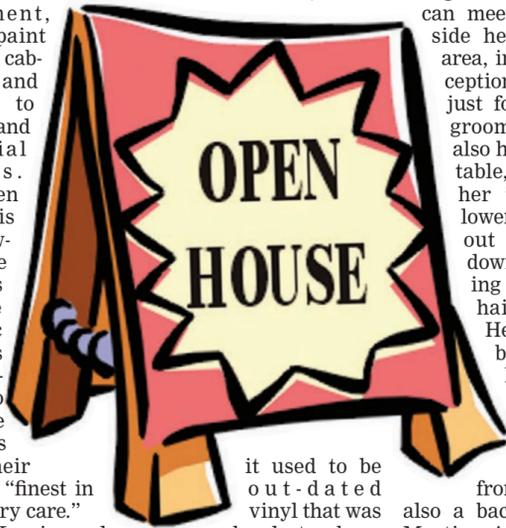
By Rose Klein  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison Veterinary Clinic is hosting an open house that is open to the public on Thursday, May 1 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Dr. John Lewis, Dr. Darren Baxley and staff, will be showing off their shiny new equipment, fresh paint and new cabinets and floors to clients and potential clients. The open house is to showcase the efforts of the clinic that is intended to provide clients and their pets the "finest in veterinary care."

Dr. Lewis and staff moved into the building 22 years ago and felt it was well past time to remodel and update their facilities and equipment. The renovations began in October of 2013, which was evident by the hammers, saws and drilling

and may have been a little tough on clients (furry clients included), but Dr. Lewis feels the effort will be well worth the dust and noise incurred from the remodeling.

When you walk into the back office, the first thing you may notice is new tile on all the floors, where



it used to be out-dated vinyl that was hard to keep clean and looking good. Walls have received new coats of paint and additions of large, new cabinets that give the staff plenty of room to stock preventatives, grooming supplies and food for customers. There is a third exam room, which staff member Amanda Oberschlake says has been beneficial in keeping appointments on track and all rooms are now equipped with lift tables, allowing dogs to be easily lowered and raised electronically, eliminating heavy lifting for the vet staff as well as making it easier for pets. The lift tables are popular with all the staff, especially Amber Lastinger, who said the tables are her favorite change in the remodel because she no longer has to struggle by picking up large dogs.

The largest renovation, however, has to be the grooming department and long-time groomer, Sheila Martin couldn't be more pleased. Everything

Martin had to do in grooming a dog, used to be in one room. Checking pets in or out, bathing, cutting hair and drying the dog after grooming. She was also required to use the medical staff's washer and dryer and kennels. After the remodel, now when a client walks in for grooming, Martin can meet them outside her grooming area, in a small reception area built just for that. Her grooming room also has a new lift table, allowing her to raise or lower a dog without bending down and picking it up to cut hair or nails.

Her new bathing tub has a pull out ramp where dogs can walk into the tub from the floor, also a back saver for Martin. After grooming, there is now another room the dogs will go to dry and the room also boasts its own washer and dryer and addition of more kennels. When asking Martin what her favorite thing was in her new space, she couldn't decide, because she said, she loved it all.

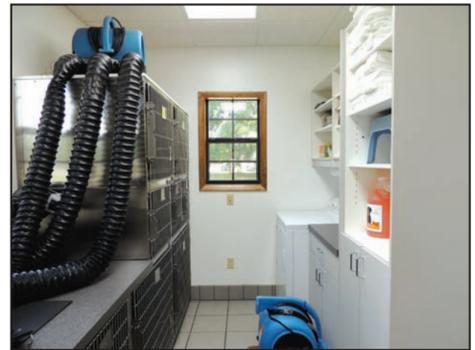
Dr. Lewis said he is excited about the changes and hopes everyone will come by on the day of the open house and see what the hardworking and talented contractors have accomplished. The clinic will be serving complimentary all-beef hot dogs, chips and drinks as a way of saying thank you for your support during the time of remodeling.

Madison Veterinary Clinic is located at 119 SW Captain Brown Rd., in Madison. For more information, call (850) 973-6936 or visit them at their new website [www.madvet.net](http://www.madvet.net).



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

The grooming department received a new bathing tub for the animals. This bathing tub allows for the pets to walk into the tub from the floor, which will also save Sheila Martin from having to do some heavy lifting.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

A new room has been added on to the Veterinary Clinic. After grooming, the dogs will be carried to the room shown above in order for them to dry off. This room also has new kennels, a washer and dryer and also supplies that the grooming department will use while grooming the animals.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, April 24, 2014

A new table has been placed in every examination room at the Madison Veterinary Clinic. These lifting tables have been placed in order to prevent heavy lifting from the vet staff and also to make it easier on the pets.

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4/25, 4/30, pd



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## --- LEGALS ---

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: Laura Storey, Katrina Aikens and Randy Littleton. The property will be sold at auction to the highest bidder as provided by the Self-Service Facility Act, Section 83.806. The sale will be held Saturday May 3, 2014, at the Madison Mini Storage, 1098 E. U.S. Hwy 90, in Madison, Florida. For further information call 850-973-2008.

4/25, 4/30

**Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of North Florida Eye Partners located at 234 SW Range Ave, in the County of Madison, in the City of Madison, Florida 32340 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Madison County, Florida, this 28 day of April, 2014. South Georgia Eye Partners DBA North Florida Eye Partners.

4/30

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# SPORTS

## LADY WARRIORS TAKE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE DISTRICT TITLE

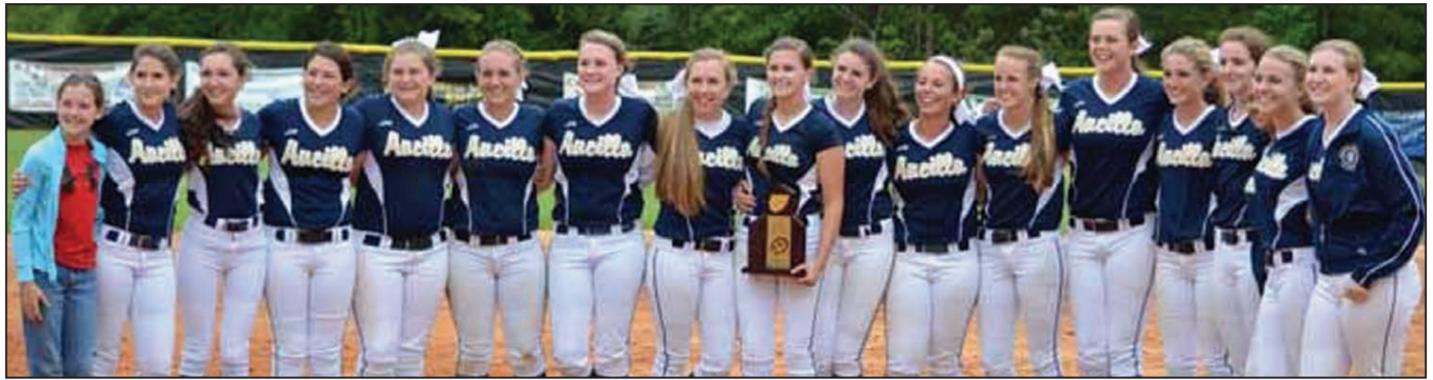


Photo Submitted

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors defeated Munroe, 5-0 to win their fourth consecutive District Championship. Pictured left to right are Lindsey Davis, Brianna Nolan, Monique Restrepo, Megan Schofill, Ashlyn Rogers, Natalie Sorensen, Ramsey Sullivan, Courtney Watts, Whitney Stevens, Gaige Winchester, Kelly Horne, Taylor Copeland, Abigail Morgan, Carly Joiner, Elizabeth Hightower, Emma Witmer and Stormie Roberts.

By Fran Hunt

Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors took their fourth consecutive District title on April 17 against Munroe, with a 5-0 victory, after an interesting turn of events.

Coach Becky Lauth explained that since Tallavana dropped out of the district, there were only three teams in the playoffs, giving Aucilla, the number one seed, a bye for the first game, which was originally slated for April 15, was rained out, and then set for April 16.

On April 16, FAMU was to face off against Munroe, but FAMU didn't show up, giving Munroe the win by a forfeit, which pitted rivals ACA and Munroe against each other in the

championship game on April 17.

The game was very tight during the first five innings, when neither team could score. Then, in the sixth inning, the Lady Warriors gave the war chant, hit the warpath and knocked five runs in, which resulted in the win.

As a team, at the plate, the Lady Warriors had 26 plate appearances, 25 at bats, with eight hits, seven singles, one double, four RBIs, five runs and five strikeouts.

Whitney Stevens had three plate appearances, three at bats, one hit, one single and one strikeout.

Emma Witmer had two plate appearances, two at bats and one strikeout.

Natalie Sorensen had three plate appearances, three at bats, two hits, one single, one double, two RBIs and one run.

Ramsey Sullivan had three plate appearances, three at bats, one hit, one single and one strikeout.

Kelly Horne had three plate appearances, three at bats, one hit, one single and one run.

Abigail Morgan had three plate appearances, two at bats, one hit, one single, one RBI and one strikeout.

Elizabeth Hightower had three plate appearances, three at bats, one hit, one single, one RBI and one run.

Taylor Copeland had three plate appearances, three at bats and one strikeout.

Carly Joiner had three plate appearances, three at bats, one hit, one single and one run.

On the field, as a team, the Lady Warriors had 27 total chances, six assists, 21 putouts and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Stevens had two total chances, one assist, one putout and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Sorensen had one total chance, one putout and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Sullivan had eight total chances, four assists, four putouts and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Horne had nine total chances, nine putouts and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Morgan had four total chances, four putouts and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Hightower had one total chance, one assist and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

Joiner had two total chances, two putouts and a fielding percentage of 1.000.

On the mound, Stevens pitched seven innings, giving up three hits, one walk, no runs and striking out nine batters.

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*Section B*

# Path *of* Faith

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# THE DAY I GAVE MY LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST



Photo Submitted

God used Ron Maddux, pictured with his wife, Penny, to lead me to the Lord when he was my fifth grade Social Studies teacher.

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

*From my book, Sudden Death: God's Overtime. The following is my conversion experience about the day that I surrendered my will and my life to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and received much more in return that anything I can ever give. Jesus laid down His life on the cross for my sins, for your sins, for the sins of the world. Give Him your life today. I would love to hear about the day you gave your heart to Jesus Christ and was born again. Please email me at [jacobbemby@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobbemby@hotmail.com) with your information. I would love to hear your story and do an article*

*on it.*

I remember that day very well.

I was 11 years old and in the fifth grade at Howard Middle School in Monticello. My homeroom teacher at the time was Mr. Ron Maddux. I did not know who Mr. Maddux was. I just knew he was a young guy who had kind of long hair and taught Social Studies. I also knew that he introduced the class to the very first video camera and recorder that any of us had ever seen. He had borrowed the equipment from somewhere. I guess it may have been from Florida State University or North Florida Junior College. He brought it into the classroom to

show us how it worked. I do not know how the rest of the class felt but I was amazed and at the same time terrified of the new invention.

I am usually that way with any new gadget. I always want the latest laptop or Kindle or iPod or iPad or iPhone or Droid. I have a house full of gadgets (usually the ones I can afford on the lower end of the price scale and even then I don't know if I can really afford them). The part that terrifies me about them is the way that they could be and sometimes are used against us. It seems to be getting simpler and simpler to hack into a computer. Several times in one week, I

had my Facebook account hacked into from Fort Worth, Texas and I do not even know anyone in Fort Worth.

One day, I was talking to Mama and telling her about my teachers when she mentioned that one of the neighbors had told her that Mr. Maddux was the preacher at the Assembly of God Church in Monticello. I had been to that church several times with my family. We usually went at Christmas or if there was a revival there. Daddy had to work a lot on Sundays, so Sunday church was not really an option for us at that time. It would soon change, though. One

*Story Continued On Page 4B*

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# The Day I Gave My Life To Jesus Christ

Cont. From Page 3B

day, I asked my mom if she wanted me to tell Mr. Maddux anything for her and she answered, "Tell him to pray for me." Well, I saw Mr. Maddux in the lunchroom one day that week and told him what Mama had said, just expected him to add her to the prayer list. Now, let me tell you, Mr. Maddux was a true evangelistic preacher who had a heart for missions. He wanted people to be saved and to be healed. He showed up that Saturday at my house with our insurance man, James Browder, who would later become a preacher himself.

Saturday meant visitation day for churches in Monticello. Saturday meant Championship Wrestling from Florida for

me and I wasn't going to tear myself away from the television for any preacher or teacher, let alone a life insurance salesman. They came in and sat down next to me on the couch and joined in as I watched legendary announcer Gordon Solie on the tube. I remember that Saturday that Harley Race and Eddie Graham were on there. Harley Race would go on to win multiple world titles in the make-believe world of pro wrestling but I understand that he was truly a legitimate tough guy. Anyway, Harley was bragging on how hard his head was and he challenged Graham to break a concrete block on the top of his head with a sledgehammer. I was afraid that Harley, who was always a

bad guy in Florida, would start cussing right there in front of Mr. Maddux and Mr. Browder, but he didn't. I did not realize that in the 1970s there was no profanity allowed on television. I heard my neighbors talk about the swear words that were tossed about between the wrestlers at the Sports Stadium in Tallahassee. My daddy's sister Nina had even been barred from there before because she slapped J.C. Dykes, the manager of the Infernos (or maybe it was Dr. Ken Ramey, the manager of the Interns). He had apparently cursed at her and she gave him what-for. Anyway, on television, the block was broken and my teacher-preacher commented on how hard Harley's head was. He then

invited me to church, prayed with mama and left.

The next day, Mama made me get up and made me go to church. I tried arguing with my mother to no avail. She did not listen. I had embarrassed her by actually telling Mr. Maddux to pray for her, which he came to our house and did. Now, I was going to have to pay her back by actually going to church on a Sunday School bus, of all things. For goodness sake, didn't I have to ride a bus to school five days a week? I would find out later; it was the best discipline that was ever forced on me. The Sunday School bus arrived. I can't remember the colors exactly. I think it may have been white with blue lettering.

Path of Faith

My mind is conjuring up a Partridge Family style bus. That may have been right for the body of the bus, but not the design on the outside. I meet the driver, Gene Sculley, who has some sons, Dan and Doug Sculley, and step-sons, Keith and Jeff Allen, who attend the church. I also see a friend on the bus. It is Ricky Williams. Ricky and I had become fast friends the year before when I had

started fourth grade in Monticello. He and I had enjoyed many fun afternoons on long school bus rides playing bee bee bush and thumps. Bee bee bush is a simple game where if someone says a word that begins with a "b" (such as my last name, Bemby) then they get punched. Thumps is a game where you thump your oppo

*Story Continued On Page 5B*

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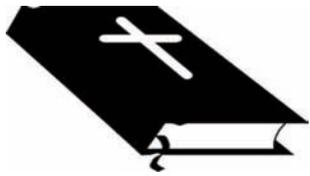
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By Jacob Bembry  
Greene Publishing,  
Inc.

On Sunday evening, April 27, at 6 p.m., a marathon began in Madison as volunteers began reading the Word of God around the clock. Set up in the Four Freedoms Park in Madison, the readers have sat before a microphone and the Bible, the readers have been reading every word written whether it was penned by Moses in the Book of Genesis and they will read all the way through to the apostle John's apocalyptic writing in the Book of Revelation.

No matter which author may have written the books they read from, the readers understand that the words were actually authored by inspiration from God Himself.

Cody Cline, who attends Madison County High School, has read the Bible at the Four Freedoms Park a few times himself. He said the part that he likes is being able to share the Word of God. Cody is the son of Tim and Emily Cline.

Twins, Emmie and Georgia Phillips, the daughters of Jed and Selena Phillips, have been reading the Bible at the Four Freedoms Park each year for almost their entire lives. They began when they were two or

## Bible Reading Marathon Taking Place



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry

**Lindsey English, though she struggled with reading as a child, develop the ability to read thanks to her teacher, Margaret Taylor, not giving up on her and now, as an adult, she still maintains the love of reading.**

three years old and their grandmother, Margie Phillips, would give them the words from the Bible which they would repeat.

Lindsey English has a remarkable story herself. As a child, she struggled with a learning disability and the inability to learn to read. Her reader instructor, Margaret Taylor, would not give up on her and now reading is one of her favorite things in the world to do. She enjoys being able to read the Bible during the Bible marathon each year. Her brother, A.J., and

her sister, Amanda, also enjoy the privilege. They are the children of Amon and Edna Doyle.

Younger people are not the only ones who enjoy reading the Word of God during the Bible marathon. People of all ages participate in getting the Word of God out to Madison County. If you get a chance, why not stop by and listen to the Word of God yourself and, if there are still slots available, why not sign up to read?

**Story Continued On Page 6B**

## The Day I Gave My Life To Jesus Christ

Cont. From Page 4B

ment's knuckles with the index finger. I think we also played "mercy," where you interlocked hands and a person tried to get the upper hand and make their opponent cry for mercy. Ricky and I enjoyed rough games. We were boys. That day, during the church service, I listened fascinated as Mr. Maddux shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with the church. He was animated. He was funny. Mr. Maddux preached and kind of sounded like Jerry Clower telling one of his hilarious stories about life in Yazoo City, Miss. Pastor Ron would tell about his life growing up in Atlanta, Ga.

When it came time to do the altar call, though, Mr. Maddux got serious. I mean dead serious. He could preach anyone under conviction but that day, it felt like he was

speaking right to me. When he gave the invitation, I was not the only one at that altar. I remember that there were several others there, also. I guess he had been speaking only to them too. I was only eleven years old and there was not a lot that I had done as an eleven-year-old that could be called sin, but there was sin in my life. I had lied. I had been disobedient to my parents, but one sin stuck out over all the other sins. I had not accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. That fact made me feel like the worst sinner in the world. Although I had never murdered anyone, I had murdered Jesus. I was just as guilty as the crowd who had shouted "Crucify Him." My hands were as dirty as those of Pontius Pilate, who had washed his

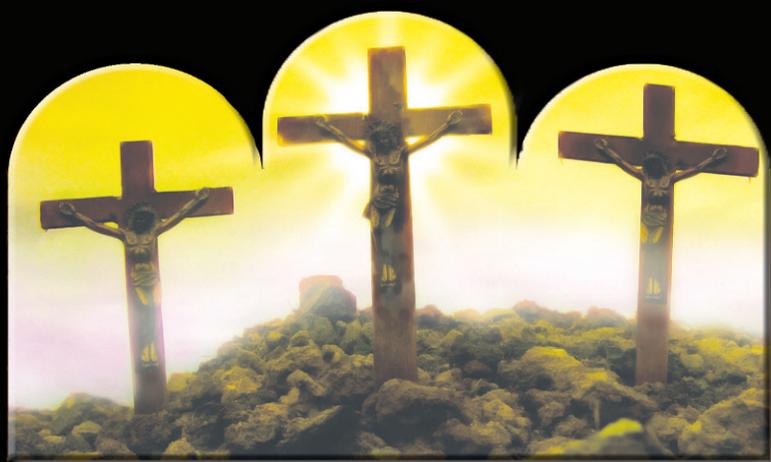
hands of the matter and, yet, Pilate's hands would never come clean. I was as guilty as the Roman soldiers who had scourged Jesus and who had driven the nails in his hands and feet. I had to do something to make myself a child of the King of Kings. That day, I became one as I was born again and washed in the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross at Calvary.

I will not lie to you and say that life has been easy for me the past thirty-nine years. I strayed as a teenager and then returned to Christ at the age of twenty-one. I did not start going to church again full-time until I was thirty years old. Since then, I have been faithful in church attendance. I need that encouragement from fellow believers each week. I need to be taught the Word. I need to study the Word. I need to live the Word. Ricky asked me if I felt any different when I returned to my seat in the sanctuary next to him. I told him, "Yeah. A little, I guess." I was not giving God enough credit. I still feel that I don't give God enough credit. Every day, I still see God's miracles unfold before me and I try to remember to give him the glory.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry

**A.J. Doyle reads the Bible during the Bible reading marathon.**



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 Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service .....11:00 a.m.  
 Wed. Jr. High Youth (grades 6-8) .....5-6 p.m.  
 Wed. Sr. High Youth (grades 9-12)...6-7:30 p.m.

***Midway Church of God***

2485 SE Midway Church Rd. • Lee  
 (850) 971-5200 • Pastor Retis Flowers

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
 Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Family Training Hour .....7:00 p.m.

***Landmark Baptist Church***

3399 W US Hwy 90 • Madison  
 (850) 973-7190 • Pastor, Robert Ledford  
**Sunday**

Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
 Evening - BTC.....6:30 p.m.  
 Evening Worship.....7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Prayer Meeting .....7:30 p.m.

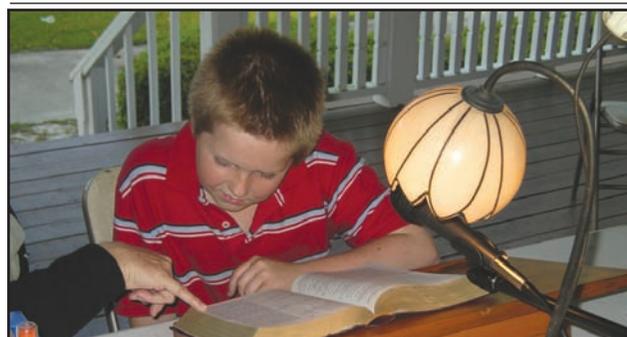
***Macedonia Baptist Church***

5539 E US 90 • Lee  
 (850) 971-5331

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
 Worship service.....11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.

# Bible Reading Marathon Taking Place

Cont. From Page 5B



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

Cody Cline, who is now in high school, enjoys being able to read the Word of God during the Bible reading marathon.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

As a child, Amanda Doyle reads the Bible as her aunt, Margie Phillips, looks on. She is now in her late teens and still enjoys reading the Bible during the Bible reading marathon.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

Danny Bemby enjoys reading the Word of God during the Bible reading marathon each year. Several who have listened to him, say that it is like listening to a professional reading the Bible on CDs.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

Faith Archambault reads the Bible during the Bible reading marathon, as her mother, Misti Archambault, looks on. The children of Jason and Misti Archambault enjoy reading the Word of God during the Bible reading marathon each year.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

Emmie Phillips reads the Bible as her grandmother, Margie Phillips, and twin sister, Georgia, look on.

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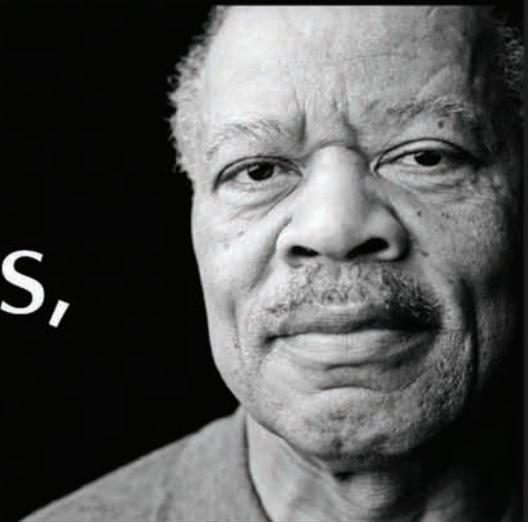
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**and  
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# National Day Of Prayer Set For Thursday At Four Freedoms Park

By Jacob Bembry  
Greene Publishing,  
Inc.

As people gather at the Four Freedoms Park in Madison on Thursday, May 1, at noon, they will be exercising one of the Four Freedoms as they exhibit their freedom to worship.

National Days of Prayer have been observed since 1775, but in 1952, the United States Congress formally recognized the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

In 2011, the Freedom from Religion Foundation unsuccessfully tried to challenge the National Day of



Prayer, but their petition was unanimously dismissed by a federal appellate court in April of that year.

Everyone is asked to gather on the lawn of the Four Freedom

Park to pray for Madison County and to pray for America. The ceremony will formally begin at noon. There will be prayer, worship music and ministry.

## 2014 National Prayer

Written by Anne Graham Lotz for  
the National Day of Prayer on  
May 1

Lord of the Universe. Lord of this planet. Lord of the nations. Lord of our hearts. On this National Day of Prayer, we look to You...

In the darkness, You are our Light.

In the storm, You are our Anchor.

In our weakness,  
You are our Strength.

In our grief, You are our Comfort.

In our despair, You are our Hope.

In our confusion, You are our Wisdom. In time of terrorism, You are our Shield. In time of war, You are our Peace.

In times of uncertainty, You are the Rock on which we stand.

We make our prayer to You using the words of the prophet Daniel:

O Lord, You are the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and keep His commandments. You are merciful and forgiving. You are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame because we have sinned against You, and done wrong. We have turned away from Your commands and principles. We have turned away from You.

Yet You have promised in 2 Chronicles 7, that if we—a people identified with You—would hum-

ble ourselves, pray, seek Your face, and turn from our wicked ways, then You would hear our prayer, forgive our sin and heal our land.

So we choose to stop pointing our finger at the sins of others, and examine our own hearts and lives. We choose to acknowledge our own sin—our neglect and defiance and ignorance and even

rejection of You. This day we choose to repent.

In response to our heartfelt repentance, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of Jesus Christ, in keeping with all Your righteous acts and according to



Your promise, turn away Your anger and Your wrath from the United States of America. Hear the prayers and petitions offered to You on this National Day of Prayer, as we give You our full attention. Give ear, our God, and hear; open Your eyes and see. We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy.

For the glory of Your Name hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land.

We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ who offers us salvation from Your judgment, forgiveness for our sin, and reconciliation with You through His own blood shed on the Cross. Amen.

## Verse Of The Week

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

*James 5:16*

# Middle Florida Baptist Association Meets



Photo submitted

**Rev. Dr. Mike Miller is the Director of Missions for the Middle Florida Baptist Association.**

led by worship leader, Mary Santerfeit. The songs included "Church in the Wildwood" and a new

*Submitted by Mary Santerfeit*

The annual Middle Florida Baptist Association met last week. Pinetta Baptist Church was the host church.

Pinetta's congregation served a delicious meal to the 100-plus people in attendance.

Pre-session music was played, followed by a "Call to Focus on the Lord," delivered by Dr. Mike Miller, Director of Missions for the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

Following Miller's message, a medley of songs was presented by the Association Choir,

version of "Jesus Loves Me." The choir did an awesome job throughout the entire evening.

Following the music, Dean Spivey, pastor of Pinetta Baptist Church served as moderator and opened the business meeting with a warm welcome and prayer.

Rev. Gabe Krell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison, delivered the opening message and did a great job.

Following Krell's message, the business meeting began with all committees presenting their reports. Dr. Miller recognized the new officers and new ministers in the association. He offered up a prayer for all churches and for new pastors and new officers.

A wonderful talk was given on the Florida Baptist Historical Society and it was noted that the first association and meeting was held in Madison County, where the Middle Florida Baptist Association is still located.

Julie Boyd, who is loved by all churches, gave the talk on behalf of the Children's Homes in Florida. Two of these including the Porch Light (this is for young girls who have been forced into

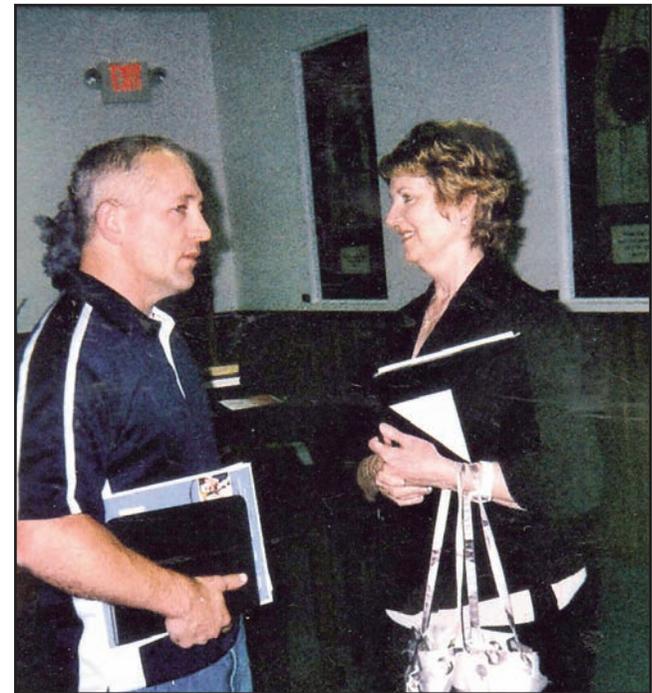


Photo submitted

**Jackie Watts, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, speaks with Jan Miller, the secretary for the Middle Florida Baptist Association.**

*Story Continued On Page 10B*



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# MFBA Meets

Cont. From Page 9B

sex trafficking) and the other is an outreach to the Dominican Republic. (Volunteers are currently traveling there to build homes for orphans and families.) She gave a stirring report on the children and the different situations they may find themselves involved with.

Rev. David Burton, Evangelism Director for the Florida Baptist Convention, brought forth a message on the need to evangelize.

Following an altar call, the altar was filled with people rededicating their lives and service to Christ.

A prayer of benediction was said as the meeting came to an end.



Photo submitted

Julie Boyd, from the Florida Children's Homes, left, takes a moment to speak with Letha Hicks.

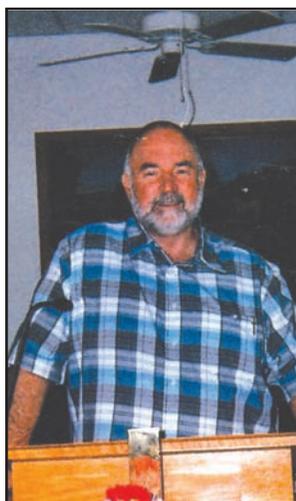


Photo submitted

Rev. Dean Spivey is the pastor of Pinetta Baptist Church and is also the moderator for the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

## FAMILY DONATES WOODEN CROSS TO CHURCH



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jacob Bembry, April 21, 2014

When the granddaughter of Gene and the late Lottie Clark was married the day before Easter at the same church that her grandparents were married in years ago, Gene Clark and family erected a wooden cross, weighing over 400 pounds in the church yard for the wedding. The bride and her groom made the trek of over 3,000 miles from California for the special wedding ceremony, which was conducted by Pastor Retis Flowers. The family graciously donated the cross to Midway Church of God. The church and its members thank Gene Clark and the family for the generous donation of the beautiful cross.

The logo for Super Sod, featuring the brand name in a stylized, cursive font with a registered trademark symbol. To the left of the text is a circular graphic element resembling a seed or a swirl.

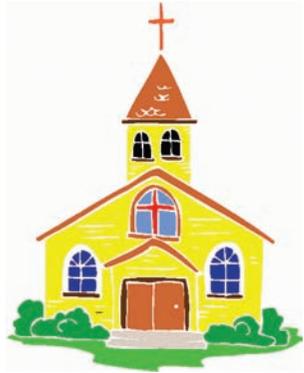
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# A Brief History Of Macedonia Baptist Church From The WPA

By Jacob Bemby  
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Set about halfway between the city limits of Madison and town limits of the quaint, little but proud hamlet of Lee is a white framed church. Directly across US Highway 90 from the church is a rustic cemetery, which has been cared for by the families of the deceased. Abundant in history, the church has stood at its current home base for three centuries. Macedonia Baptist Church has seen the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century, and, so far, the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During the Great Depression, as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created. A total of \$15,500,000.00 (15.5 million) was allocated to archive the history of churches throughout the country. A number of Madison County churches were archived by the WPA, including Macedonia Baptist Church.

According to the WPA record, which may have been collected by WPA worker Margaret Jones in 1936, the church was started in 1860 and was later incorporated at an unknown date. The first services were held in a log church, which was located across the road from the present church, which was erected in 1890 and dedicated in 1894. The church was repaired in 1927 and additions began to be added in 1932.

Rev. J. Woodward was the first settled pastor of the church and served in that capacity from 1860-1862. At the time, the WPA records were published, Rev. Jas. A. Nichols

was the pastor of the church. A graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., his address was listed as P.O. Box 116, Madison.

The church, which was listed as a quarter-time church, meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month, boasted a membership of 233 people.

Church records from 1890 to the present were in the custody of M.C. Woodard, of Madison, the church clerk. The records, which were in two volumes, showed the minutes of business meetings, the membership roll, baptisms and deaths of church members.

The church register, in the custody of Rev. Nichols, showed the membership roll, the baptisms and the deaths of church members.

The church financial records, from 1890 until the time the WPA report was filed, were in the custody of the church treasurer, O.A. Henderson, of Lee. The financial records showed the receipts and disbursements of the church.

There were six volumes of Sunday School records listed for Macedonia Baptist Church in the WPA archives, dating from 1890. These records showed the pupils, officers, teachers, attendance, collections and disbursements. They were in the custody of Nonie Milford, of Madison, the church secretary.

There was one volume of Women's Missionary Union (WMU) records, dating from 1930. These records listed the members, the minutes of the meetings, the collections and the disbursements. They were in the custody of Mrs. Charlie Milford, of Madison.



Photo Courtesy of State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

The congregation at Macedonia Baptist Church, circa the 1930s.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby

Macedonia Baptist Church as it stands today.

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