

STATE'S GRADUATION RATE RANKED LOW NATIONALLY

Florida's high school graduation rate is among the lowest in the nation. This according to a news release from the Associated Press, as reported by WCTV. The AP reports that a document released on Monday,

April 28, at the Building a GradNation Summit in Washington D.C. found Florida's 75 percent graduation rate to be about five percentage points lower than the nationwide average. The findings were reportedly based on U.S. Department of



Education statistics from 2012, with researchers predicting that the national graduation rate should reach 90 percent by 2020. Four other states tied with Florida for having the lowest graduation rate, and six other ones had

even lower graduation rates. The good news is that even though Florida ranked in the bottom tier, student graduation rates have actually been improving. In 2006, according to the report, about 60 percent of Florida students graduated.

Trespasser Threatens Police Officer



Joseph Reddick
By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison Police Department was dispatched to the Madison Heights Apartments in reference to a verbal altercation on Saturday, April 26. According to the MPD report, Patrolman Johnson made contact with Joseph Reddick, who said his named was Terrence and his nickname was TJ Myself. Patrolman Johnson and Corporal Rosenberg had prior knowledge of Reddick for trespassing at Madison Height Apartments.

See Trespassing On Page 3A

MCSO Hosting 5 Stand Skeet Shoot

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office is hosting a 5 Stand Skeet Shoot on Saturday, May 17, to benefit the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. This event is sponsored by Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart.

The 5 Stand Skeet Shoot will be held at Honey Lake Plantation's Sport Shooting Multiplex. The entry fee is \$50 and includes 5 Stand with 25 targets per shooter, 12-gauge ammunition and lunch. The event will also be giving away door prizes.

There will be two events held. Event one will be held at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and event two will be held at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants can RSVP to reserve their shooting time and can pay upon arrival the day of the event but the Madison County Sheriff's Office needs to know in advance how many shooters there will be.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office needs to know in advance how many shooters there will be. See MCSO On Page 3A

Madison County Commission, Gov. Scott Declare State Of Emergency



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 30, 2014

At the April 30 special session, county commissioners hear updates from Emergency Management Director Tom Cisco and Road Department Director Lonnie Thigpen. Starting at the left and going clockwise around the table are County Coordinator Allen Cherry, Commissioner Rick Davis, Court Clerk Tim Sanders, Commission Chair Justin Hamrick, Commissioner Wayne Vickers, Commissioner Clyde Alexander and County Attorney Tommy Reeves. Standing at the podium left to right are Tom Cisco and Lonnie Thigpen. The County Commission meets again in Special session May 7 at 4:30 p.m., to extend the state of emergency for Madison County.

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

On April 30, the same day that the Madison County Commission met in a second special session to extend the county's declared state of emergency for another seven days, Florida Gov. Rick Scott declared a State of Emergency for 26 North Florida counties. The 26 counties affected include a chunk extending almost all the way across the upper northern part of the state, from Escambia at the westernmost point, back along the Panhandle to the Big Bend and North Central Florida (including Madison and the surrounding counties of Jefferson, Taylor, Lafayette, Suwannee and Hamilton), to Columbia, Alachua and Levy Counties in the east.

Gov. Scott's declaration makes this area able to receive assistance from the federal government as well as from other states that have agreements with Florida to render aid in such circumstances. It also directs government

and law enforcement agencies in the region to provide personnel under the command of the State Coordinating Officer to deal with the situation, temporarily suspends tolls and other roadway fees in order to expedite emergency transport vehicles or facilitate evacuation measures should such be necessary, as well as a host of other measures designed to mitigate emergency conditions and speed relief efforts.

The Madison County Commission first met in a special session April 23, after a series of heavy rains had rivers rising to flood stage. The rains were causing inland flooding as well, where excessive rainfall had simply saturated the ground to the point where the water was collecting in large, low-lying areas, with nowhere to go. At that time, some expressed hope that the sunny weather that day would hold out. However, there was more rain in cards for the rest of that week.

On April 30, they met again to extend the State of Emergency, be-

cause each declaration expires after seven days.

"Probably most of you know what happened to Pensacola overnight," said Emergency Management Director Tom Cisco, referring to the record-breaking deluge that hit the western tip of the panhandle two days earlier, washing out major roadways. Extreme rainfall had been predicted for Madison as well, but fortunately, actual rainfall here was much less. If there was no more rain, the rivers would keep going down; extending the declaration of emergency would keep the county in the loop with the state as far as filing reports and getting reimbursement for eligible expenses incurred after the water was gone and officials could see what kind of road damage they had.

County officials are also hoping for state help with aerial mosquito spraying to deal with the hordes of mosquitoes emerging from acres and acres of standing water in various parts of the county. Madison Road De-



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, April 30, 2014

Tom Morse (wearing fedora) describes the flash flood he remembers from his childhood, as Court Clerk Tim Sanders and the several county commissioners look on.

partment Director Lonnie Thigpen said that, at the time of the meeting, 19 roads were closed, and how long they had to stay closed depended on how much more water was going to come down on the county from Georgia.

Several people attending the meeting re-

called the heavy rains of 1948 that had suddenly washed out a road that was acting as a dam; when the road gave way, much of the area around Pinetta and between Rocky Ford Road and Hwy 145 experienced flash flooding.

See Emergency On Page 3A

Aloise Bevel Reaches The Century Mark

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

World War I hadn't even broken out yet when Aloise Hines was born in the small rural town of Hahira, Ga., on March 9, 1914. Her parents, Amos and Rebecca Hines, soon moved their family to Madison, where she has lived ever since, until recently, when she moved to Jacksonville to stay with some of her family members.

But Madison still holds a special place for Aloise. She will be celebrating her 100th birthday on March 9, 2014. Please join us in celebrating this special occasion on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 6:30 at Magnolia's (10367 Midtown Parkway) Jacksonville, FL 32246. RSVP by returning the enclosed card to Thomas Bevel by February 14, 2014.



Photo Submitted

On a rare occasion like a 100th birthday, it sometimes takes two celebrations. This photo is from the invitation that was sent out to family members for her Jacksonville party March 8, 2014.

Cherry Lake Fire And Rescue Announces Bass Tournament

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Break out your fishing gear for the Cherry Lake Fire and Rescue Bass Tournament, Saturday, May 10, from 6 a.m. until noon, at the Madison County Public Boat Ramp (on Cherry Lake, next to the 4-H Camp, 243 NE Public Boat Ramp Rd.

Registration begins sharply at 5 a.m., with an entry fee of \$50 per boat (two fishermen) or \$25 per single fisherman. You can also register for the "BIG FISH" pot, \$10 per boat, with 100 percent payout to the "BIG

FISH" winner.

Prize money will be awarded as follows: 1st through 4th place, if 21 or more boats enter; 1st through 3rd place for 10 to 20 boats, and a 1st and 2nd place for less than ten boats.

The tournament is sponsored by: Gray Logging, LLC; Pioneer Excavation and Tractor Service; Madison Community Bank Madison Plumbing; and Johnson & Johnson.

For more information please call (850) 929-2354, and leave your name and return call phone number, or try clfr@embarqmail.com.

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School	10A	Path of Faith	Section B

Local Weather			
Wed 5/7	88/60		A mainly sunny sky. High 88F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph.
Thu 5/8	89/64		Sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
Fri 5/9	89/66		Sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sat 5/10	85/65		Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

National Security

Munich 1938



Joe Boyles
Guest Columnist

This is a repeat of a column I wrote in this space nearly six years ago. I don't normally repeat a previously written column, but I will this time because the situation that Europe found itself in three-quarters of a century ago is eerily similar to today's situation between Russia and the Ukraine. We can learn from historical example.

Seventy years ago (now 75+), a political crisis in Central Europe was unfolding that would have lasting worldwide implications. At issue was the future of Czechoslovakia and the antagonist was Nazi Germany and its dictator Adolph Hitler.

At the time, Czechoslovakia was a relatively new nation, created in the aftermath of World War I by the Versailles Treaty where seventy nations dealt with the fracturing of four former empires. This new nation had formerly been part of the Hapsburg Empire of Austria-Hungary. As such, the nation of 14 million souls included ethnic Slavs, Poles and Germans.

In his first two land-grabs, Hitler had remilitarized the Rhineland and swallowed Austria. Now he set his eyes southeast toward the Sudetenland in the western portion of Czechoslovakia that bordered on Germany and Austria. This region was populated by three million ethnic Germans and Hitler's agents had been stirring up trouble among the masses. This was Hitler's excuse for the crisis, but as early as six months before, he had ordered the German Army to prepare for invasion and occupation of the Czech Republic.

The new Czech nation under the presidency of Eduard Benes was fearful of its powerful northern neighbor and had entered into mutual defense treaties with France and Russia. While Czechoslovakia had a powerful military for a small nation and impressive defensive forts along its western border, the treaties reinforced their security.

In mid-September, Hitler announced that he could no longer tolerate (so he claimed) the abuses of the Sudeten people and promised that unless this matter was diplomatically resolved, he would resort to force. Sound familiar?

The trauma of World War I was still fresh on the minds of Europeans, and their leaders rushed forward to try and avoid another costly war. The leader of this diplomatic pack was Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. In less than three weeks, the prime minister would make three trips to Hitler's doorstep to attempt a brokered solution that would appease the Nazi dicta-

tor. Chamberlain was working against a deadline - Hitler had mobilized his army and given them an invasion date of October 1.

Adolph Hitler had four things working against his plan. First, the Czech defenses in the Bohemian mountains were too strong for his military to defeat in Blitzkrieg fashion. Second, he could mount only five regular and seven weak reserve divisions to protect his western flank from attack by the Czech ally France. The French would overwhelm this force with at least 65 divisions. Third, the British Fleet and air forces would control the sea lanes and air space. And finally, many of the senior German army officers knew that their nation could not win a war at this point and were plotting to overthrow the Fuehrer.

Against all of these odds, Hitler bet that the British and French would sacrifice Czechoslovakia and avoid war at any cost. He was right.

In his 1959 classic "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," reporter William L. Shirer devotes nearly one hundred pages to the 1938 crisis that led to the Munich Agreement and dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. Shirer makes an excellent case that this was the last opportunity to stop Hitler before war broke out eleven months later, a war that would eventually cost the lives of 50 million people. In this light, it is agonizing to read the account and imagine what might have been had the western democracies showed any resolve and moral leadership.

Hitler's naïve dupe was Chamberlain. It is hard to imagine that a major world leader would be willing to sacrifice the sovereignty of another nation and its people to the Nazi warlord, but he did. He brokered the deal that would hand major portions of Czechoslovakia, people and property, to the Germans and forced the Czech Republic to accept the agreement. It was the ultimate example of appeasement - avoid war at any cost. The Czechs were not even consulted during the negotiations; rather they were informed of the results at the conclusion.

In appeasing Hitler, Chamberlain put his blinders on and ignored obvious signals that could be used to his advantage. He knew that the German generals were plotting against Hitler, but chose to ignore this important fact of internal dissension. He refused to consider the strength of the Czech's defensive capabilities or the possibility that Russia might intervene. He ignored his own intelligence about the relative weakness of the German military at that point and cowed the French into abandoning their ally. In the process of avoiding a fight over Czechoslovakia in 1938, he set the world on course for the most destructive war in human history.

While no rational person wants war, there are supreme dangers when it is avoided at any cost. That is the lesson of Munich 1938.

Emerald's Gem Box

Happy Mother's Day



Emerald Greene
Publisher

This Sunday is Mother's Day. Along with the wanting to wish all the mothers a happy and prosperous day, I would like to wish a very special "Happy Mother's Day" to my Mother, Mary Ellen Greene, on this special day that is totally dedicated to her.

Mothers are given to us for nurturing, gentleness and love. The one to kiss away our tears, hug away our fears, and to listen with a kind, open heart to our worries and troubles. It is her side of the bed that we would climb in to, in the middle of the night, when awoken with a nightmare.

From my Mother I learned the softer side of life. She showed me how a real mother is supposed to be to her children...and I can only hope that I am doing even half as good of a job as she did. From her,

I learned the importance of a sweet heart, a caring spirit and a giving attitude. She taught me how to find a silver lining in any situation and she taught me the lesson of "making memories" with my children and enjoying life, one day at a time.

My mother has always been one of THE sweetest people I have ever known. She never speaks unkindly of another person. She always preached, and lived, the saying "If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all."

My Mother has been such a big part of my life. I'm blessed that I still have my Mother with me, in this world, and I thank God everyday, for that fact.

So, this Sunday, please take the time to go see your Mother (and Grandmother), or call her, or do something special for her. Time flies by too fast in this life. Your Mother gave years and years of her life, dedicated to you - can't you give her one day?!

God, Family and Country. Keep those three things in order and your life shall truly prosper.

Until then...see you around the town.

Searching For Ambrosia

Drinking In Health



Rose Klein
Columnist

If the old adage, "You are what you eat" is true, than for the most part, I would be a "fruitatarian." Don't get me wrong, I love (and eat) a variety of foods, but when shopping or snacking, I find myself reaching for fruit. One of the things that make fruit good for me is the convenience; bananas, apples, plums, apricots, nectarines, grapes, strawberries...they come in their own edible packaging, wash, go and eat. Even fruit that has inedible outer peels, like oranges, mango and watermelon, take little effort to "prepare" before consuming.

Another advantage of fruit, for me, is the sweetness. I'm pretty sure I was born with a sweet tooth already intact and it must have gripped my gums with everything it had in order to stay put when all the rest of my baby teeth let go because I remember at a very young age, my grandmother feeding me milk that she had enriched with probably more sugar than what is in a sugar bowl and a favorite fruit snack, also served to me by my grandmother, of blueberries dripping with sugary syrup.

Today when I eat fruit, I don't need the additives of sugar for me to enjoy them and every summer, I look forward to the different seasons that bring around some of my favorites. Watermelon is my long-time favorite, but blueberries are also high up on my list, probably because they are not only good to eat but so good for you, and I have fun plucking them from their bushes during the mid-summer months. I pick as many as I have the patience for, take them home

and freeze to use later in pancakes, muffins, coffeecakes and pies, usually reserving some to use fresh for jam.

Lately, one of the ways I have found to enjoy blueberries is in a smoothie. What goes in the smoothie will usually depend upon what I have available, but one of my favorite smoothies is one I had this morning: blueberries, banana, yogurt and soymilk. It's smooth and creamy and oozing with nutrition. This smoothie has all the antioxidants, fiber and vitamin C of the berries, high doses of potassium from the banana, probiotics, protein and calcium of the yogurt and even more fiber and protein from the soymilk. It's very filling and with the thickness of the smoothie, it gives me that feeling of "chewing" I can't get drinking protein from a can. If for some reason you can't or don't want to include dairy, or you would prefer not to do soy, you can substitute juice or crushed ice and you can adjust your smoothie according to your taste preference or by what you have on hand. Making smoothies out of fruit is one of the easiest and most forgiving "recipes" you can make. Sometimes, if the fruit is not as sweet as I'd like, I may add a little honey, but not too much because I don't want to take away from the actual flavor of the fruit. You could add sugar or agave if you'd prefer.

It's time to drag out those blenders because summer is here and smoothies are quick, nutritious and can adapt to whatever seasonal fruit is on hand. I'm including my blueberry smoothie proportions for you, but it's just a guide, adjust with abandon.

My Favorite Blueberry Smoothie

- 1 c blueberries, frozen
- ½ banana, sliced and frozen
- 1 c vanilla yogurt
- 1 c soymilk
- 1 tsp. honey (optional)

Blend it up, slurp it up! Aaahhhhhh!



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Letter To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are typed word for word, comma for comma, as sent to this newspaper.
- All submitted letters must be 600 words or less -

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE NOW.

On Wednesday, the Senate failed to move forward with legislation that would increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the period of 30 months. The minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 since 2009. Recent figures show that more than three million Americans earned that amount or less last year.

What do these numbers really mean? Assuming someone earning the current minimum wage works 40 hours in a week, that amounts to a total of \$290.00. This is before any taxes or deductions. Could YOU live on that amount per week?

Let's take it one step further. Assume a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year. That yields an annual income of \$15,080.00. If you are a single parent with only one child, the poverty line for your household is \$15,730.00. If you work full-time, never miss a day of work and don't take any vacations, you are making \$650.00 LESS than the poverty line!

But that's not all. The likelihood of a minimum-wage employee consistently working a full 40-hour week is low. Think about who holds these jobs: fast-food workers, low-level retail employees, etc. It is well-known that many companies schedule these employees less than a full week so they do not have to pay for the bene-

fits which are due to full-time workers.

Yes, it's true that there are some benefits available to these, the most vulnerable workers in our society. But no one should have to depend on government handouts to make ends meet after an honest day's work. I believe that what people truly want is to be responsible for their own fates. These people are working, and they are working hard. They deserve to live a life of dignity, and to take pride in providing for their families.

The solution seems clear to me: raise the minimum wage. Where will the money come from? End tax breaks for the wealthy. Don't misunderstand me. I believe that market forces should be allowed to exert their influence in business, but not to the extent that it means exploiting the least fortunate among us.

We all want to believe that America is the land of opportunity. But right now, that does not apply to everyone. We are creating an underclass of indentured servants who toil day and night with no visible recompense for their labors. Let us break this vicious cycle and empower our brothers and sisters to reach for the economic freedom so many of us enjoy. Let us raise the minimum wage to a living wage and truly make America the land of opportunity for all of us.

Paul Chehade

FROM PAGE ONE

Trespassing

Cont. From Page 1A

According to the MPD report, Ptl. Johnson made contact with the female victim and was informed that Reddick, herself and another man came back to the apartment after a night of heavy drinking. The woman woke up to an unlocked front door and confronted Reddick about it. The other man was awoken by Reddick asking him for a cigarette and the man told him no. According to the report, this made Reddick angry and wanted the man to answer who was right about the front door argument. When the man did not answer Reddick, Reddick told him to get out of bed. The man did not move and Reddick punched the man in the left eye with a closed fist while the man was lying in bed and when the man

tried to get up Reddick punched him for a second time. After this argument, the woman ran to her aunt's apartment to use the phone.

According to the MPD report, while at the Madison County Jail Reddick threatened to punch Cpl. Rosenberg in the mouth when he had his handcuffs taken off and made a statement that he knew where Cpl. Rosenberg lived and he would walk to his house.

Reddick has been charged with trespassing after warning, resisting without violence for failing to provide his real name when requested by a law enforcement officer during an official investigation, simple battery, corruption by threat on a public official by threatening and violation of parole.

Birthday

Cont. From Page 1A



Photo Submitted

A special lady who has lived long and well, Aloise Bevel celebrates turning 100 years old.

her, as does her home church, Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. She comes back to Madison once a month to attend church services there. One of her grandsons, Octavius Tookes, is also a minister, in addition to serving as the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Coordinator for the Madison County School District.

It was here in Madison that Aloise Hines met Joe Bevel, fell in love, got married and raised 11 children with him. In time, they would be blessed with 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great grandchildren.

After four of her own children had graduated from high school, she went back to high school herself and earned her high school diploma alongside two of her other children, but she didn't stop there. She went on to continue

her education at Suwannee River Junior College. After graduating from there, she worked for the Madison County School District for 24 years, finally retiring in 1996.

"I remember working with her in the guidance office at the Central School," said Jo Willis, a retired educator herself. "She was a jewel."

Her faith was always a big part of her life; she accepted Christ at a very young age and went on to serve her church, Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, for over 70 years as the church clerk. She also loved music, and spent many a Sunday singing in the church choir. She served as the choir president for 14 years.

With a century's worth of family members, spanning multiple generations and now spread out to other towns, it took two birthday celebrations, one in Jacksonville on March 8, and the other here at the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries Center just a few days ago, so all her family members would have a chance to see her and wish her a happy birthday. A 100th birthday is something that very few people get to celebrate, so both celebrations were very special occasions indeed.

In acknowledging the special quality of her milestone birthday and of the extraordinary life she has led, centered around her family and her faith, "a life well-lived," the Madison County Commission adopted Resolution No. 2014-04-23 in her honor.

Emergency

Cont. From Page 1A

Once again, a similar situation was building up, with one roadway holding back a thousand acres of water three to four feet deep. Commissioners and Road Department officials discussed possible emergency measures to stabilize the road surface and allow the water to pour over it slowly without taking out the entire roadway, but other circumstances after

the meeting meant that the Road Department had to hold off on taking any kind of action. As of Monday afternoon, May 5, the department was still having to wait.

The County Commission will meet in Special Session again Wednesday, May 7, at 4:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the Courthouse Annex. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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MCSO

Cont. From Page 1A

ty Sheriff's Office is selling raffle tickets for a Beretta Silver Pigeon 1, over and under 12 Gauge 28" barrel shotgun, hard case and five different chokes. There are only 400 tickets being sold and they are \$10

each. The drawing will take place at the event. The winner does not have to be present to win.

For registration and information, contact the Madison County Sheriff's Office at (850) 973-4151.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Obituary

Edith Juanita Thomas

Edith Juanita Thomas, 89, died following a heart attack at Advent Christian Village on May 1.

She was born August 18, 1924 in Wewahitchka, Fl. She was the daughter of Novella and John Henry Daniels. She had one brother, Archie Preston Daniels (deceased). She moved to Eagle Lake at a young age and attended Eagle Lake Elementary and Winter Haven High School. She married Joseph W. Thomas of Lee, in September 1947. They were married 66 years. She was a loving wife, mother



and homemaker. She was an exceptional cook and her banana puddings brought happiness to many. To be given a written copy of this dessert recipe was to be given a treasure indeed. She was a Christian who spent much time in prayer. She prayed for many people who may never have known that Heaven was

being called upon for them. She loved. There is no better way to put it and so we will leave it at that.

She lived the last year of her life at Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park. She is survived by her loving husband J.W. Thomas; two daughters: Lanece Vann Condry and Dale Thomas (husband Jerry McDonald); two granddaughters: Jessica Michelle Diericks, who resides in Texas, and Josie Marie Gaskins (husband Daniel Gaskins); one great-granddaughter, Katie Shea Diericks; and sister-in-law, Myrtle Daniels.

The visitation was held Friday, May 2 at Beggs Funeral Home from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Graveside service was held Saturday, May 3 at Midway Baptist Church at 2 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Beggs Funeral Home at 235 NW Orange Ave., Madison, Fl. 32340

Charles Robert Miller

Charles "Chuck" Robert Miller, 54, died Saturday, May 3, at his home. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, May 7, from 5 - 7 p.m. at his home at 697 SW Genoa Way, Madison, Fl., 32340.

He was born and raised in Piqua, Ohio. In 1983, he moved to Florida, where he worked for the city of Fernandina Beach for 10 years. He worked at Dixie Packers for 12 years and was a truck driver. He liked racing go-carts and cars. He played in a band "Just Foolin Around." He liked the outdoors and being by the fire. He is survived by his parents:

Charles and Roberta Miller of Madison; wife: Teresa Miller of Madison; three sons: Robert Charles Miller, Christopher Housley and Stephen Turner; one daughter: Sherrie Renee Miller of Madison; three brothers: Jeffrey Allen Miller of Dowling Park, Rex L. Miller of Lee and Timothy P. Miller; two sisters: Teresa Lynn Shefbuch (Rodney) of Dowling Park and Mary Ann Miller (James) of Lee; eight grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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

Happy Birthday Miss Lula Haynes



We would like to say Happy Birthday to Miss Lula Haynes on a special birthday! She is turning 95 on May 8, 2014. From all of your children, nieces, nephews, cousins, and grandchildren, we love you and hope you have many, many more special birthdays.

We all love our Mama. She is the Best #1 Mama ever.

THE JUNE 7, 2014 WEDDING OF CYNTHIA BROWN TO JAMES HOWES HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

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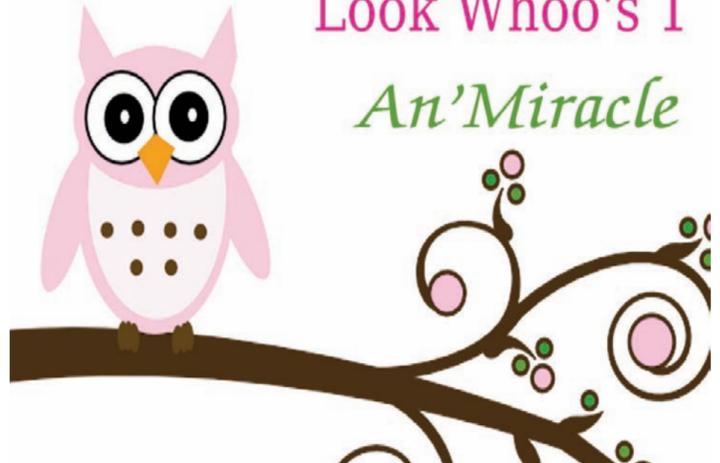
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Look Whoo's 1 An'Miracle



When I was four months pregnant with Quin'Mari An'Miracle, I was told she wasn't going to see birth. Once she was born on May 7, 2013, I was told she wasn't going to live to see three months but with that being said I'm

grateful to wish my little baby girl Quin'Mari An'Miracle Clemons a Happy Birthday, but most of all I want to thank the man up above for bringing her into our life because she is truly a blessing to us. This is coming from proud parents Taceria and Quinton Clemons. She has two brothers and a sister who love her dearly. She also has her grandparents, Marth Lewis and Johnny Williams, the late Betty Jean Stevson, along with her loving godmother,



Vanessa Sanders. We all want to wish you a Happy Birthday and many, many more to come. We love you very much.

Community Calendar

- May 10**
The Suwannee Valley Humane Society will be hosting their annual Spring Fling as well as celebrating their 30th Anniversary, Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Come out and meet the residents and buy plants, clothes and household items at the Thrift Store. Enjoy refreshments and baked goods that are all reasonably priced and take advantage of the free adoption day for large dogs and adult cats over one year old. For more information or to donate items, email suwanneevalley@embarqmail.com.
- May 10**
Cherry Lake Fire Rescue, Inc. is holding a bass tournament, Saturday, May 10 from 6 a.m. until noon (registration starts at 5 a.m.) at the Madison County Public Boat Ramp, located on Cherry Lake, next to the 4-H Camp. The ramp address is 243 NE Public Boat Ramp Rd. Entry fee is \$50 per boat (2 fishermen) or \$25 per fisherman. Prize money and a "Big Fish" pot will be awarded. For more information call (850) 929-2354 and leave name and number for a call back or email clfr@embarqmail.com.
- May 10**
The McCormick Family will be in concert at the Church of Jesus Christ in Cross City, Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. For information or directions, call Brenda McCormick at (850) 869-9976.
- May 14**
Wednesday, May 14, is the final meeting of the 55 Plus Club; the club will take a break over the summer and start up again in September. The entertainment for the May meeting is a special surprise, so come on out, bring a friend, enjoy the great lunch provided and be prepared to have a wonderful time. The meeting starts at noon at the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries Center on the corner of Hwy. 145 and Dill Street, about five miles north of town. The meeting is free and open to Madison County residents ages 55 and up. There are no dues, fees or registration. Just come on out and enjoy good food and fellowship. For directions or more information call UCMC Coordinator Deborah Brown at (850) 929-4938.
- 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 are open to the public. Novice through professional photographers is welcomed. For more information or to receive a copy of the event guidelines, call Program Chair Carolyn Hogue at (386) 935-2044.
- May 17**
Former NFL football player and Madison resident, Jesse Solomon, will be hosting the Jesse Solomon Youth Football Camp, Saturday, May 17, at Madison Lanier Field. The event is open to children 4th thru 10th grades. Registration starts at 11 a.m. with camp starting at noon and lasting until 4 p.m. Parents can also register their child online at www.usafotball.com/fun, click on Clinics, and then select Jesse Solomon Youth Football Camp.
- May 17**
The Madison County Sheriff's Office and Madison County Sheriff, Ben Stewart is hosting a 5 Stand Skeet Shoot on Saturday, May 17, to benefit the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. The skeet shoot will be at Honey Lake Plantation's Sport Shooting Multiplex with an entry fee of \$50. There will be two events: one at 9 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. To reserve shooting time, RSVP to the Madison County Sheriff's Office at (850) 973-4151.
- The Madison County Sheriff's Office is now selling raffle tickets for a Beretta Silver Pigeon1, over and under 12 Gauge 28-inch barrel shotgun, hard case and five different chokes. Tickets are \$10 each, with only 400 tickets available. The drawing will take place on Saturday, May 17, at the Honey Lake 5 Stand Skeet Shoot. The winner need not be present to win.
- May 19**
The 4th annual B.F. Killingsworth Gator Golf Classic will be held Monday, May 19 at the Madison County Country Club, located at 445 SW Country Club Rd. Spots are still available with tee times at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All proceeds from the tournament will go towards the Madison County Gator Club Scholarship fund. For more information contact Stefanie Thomas at (850) 464-1177.

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.

AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Greenville Gets Purple Pinkies

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Friday, April 25, Madison Rotary Club members visited Greenville Elementary School in a continuation of the Purple Pinkie Project, a fundraiser visiting local schools for Polio Plus, Rotary International's ongoing global vaccination effort (since 1985) to eradicate the polio virus from the face of the planet.

In 1985, the crippling, sometimes fatal disease had already been eradicated from the U.S. for two or three decades, but it was still endemic in 125 other countries around the world. As of May 2013, only four countries remained on the endemic list: India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

The goal of total eradication is so close, but as long as wild poliovirus remains on the loose, as seen in recent alerts from the World Health Organization, the danger of the disease breaking out again is a scary possibility, especially with today's highly mobile population and access to air travel to and fro.

The main hurdle to total eradication of the virus is getting enough funding to buy the vaccines.

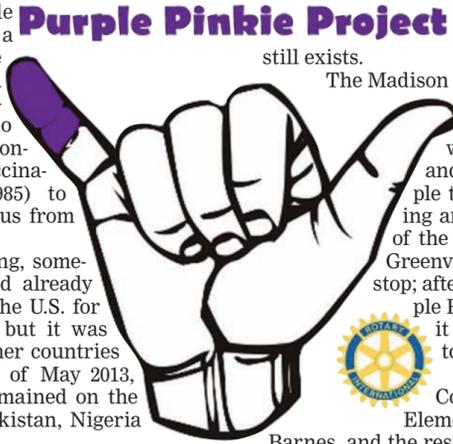
According to www.rotary.org/en/end-polio, as little as 60 cents will pay for one child's vaccination, so every dollar raised by the Purple Pinkie Project is more than enough to give a child lifelong protection in countries where the threat still exists.

The Madison Rotary Club has already taken the Purple Pinkie Project to Pinetta Elementary, where students brought in \$1 and had their pinkies dyed purple to show that they were helping another child in another part of the world live a life free of polio. Greenville Elementary was the next stop; after Greenville, the Rotary Purple Pinkie Team has plans to visit more local schools that wish to participate.

Rotary president Wayne Conger stated that Greenville Elementary's principal, Valencia Barnes, and the rest of the staff "were extremely helpful and enthusiastic about our efforts and were fully involved in helping us." Principal Barnes even provided dollar bills for children who wanted to participate in helping another child, but didn't have the money.

The Greenville Purple Pinkie Project raised a total of \$144, an amount Conger said was very significant for a small, rural school.

It is enough to buy vaccine for about 230 children.



Jesse W. Solomon Park Dedication Set For May 16

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The City of Madison will be officially dedicating the park located on Jeanette Circle. The park will be named Jesse W. Solomon Park.

According to City Manager Tim Bennett, City Commissioner Rayne Cooks received complaints about snakes coming from the wooded area on Jeanette Circle. The City came in and cleared it out to where the pond was exposed.

The park's purpose is a fishing area, however, Bennett and the City are working on clearing another area for recreational equipment to be placed on. They also want to clear out areas so that the fisherman can have more access to the pond.

Bennett also had a part in getting the Sumpter A. James Jr. Park completed. That park's dedication was December 8, 2013.

"This is the most rewarding thing I have done in my career," said Bennett. "I built a playground for the children."

According to Bennett, Commissioner Cooks has provided the leadership for making these parks happen.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be Friday, May 16 at 5 p.m.

Locals Receive My Small Town Heroes Awards



Photo Submitted by Merv Mattair

Tharron Robinson, Cindy Vees and Michael Curtis received the My Small Town Hero Award this year from Boyz to Kings. Submitted by Merv Mattair

This year the Boyz to Kings Family in partnership with The Community Awareness Committee hosted the second David Dukes "Get Your Dukes on Flag Tournament"/Peace Love & Joy Festival. The Florida Department of Health Abstinence Division sponsored the event this year.

Civil Rights Leader David Duke's message and the overall theme was to empower our youth to avoid risky situations by practicing abstinence in all areas that may have a negative impact on their future; however, Boyz to Kings took advantage of the opportunity to pre-

sent the My Small Town Hero Award to the selected individuals.

My first book "Word to My Kings & Queens: Achieving A Renewed and Improved Mind," was dedicated to the people who hardly ever get recognized such as bus drivers, cafeteria cooks, teachers, dads, mothers, janitors, fast food employees, etc.

The person receiving the award had to be someone who had supported one or more youth in areas that have impacted the youth's life. The person could not have financial ties to helping the youth; it had to have been out of the true passion, love and sacrifice.

The first winner for the 2014 award is

Michael Curtis, a dedicated father and husband whose passion for education has caused him to spread it among the community and its evident through the educational success of his children.

The second winner is Cindy Vees, apart from her Madison County Chamber of Commerce duties, she has gone above and beyond to empower the young ladies by being a speaker at the Girls to Queens event in 2013. She supports the vision of dreamers by sharing her expertise in a volunteer manner without displaying negative biased perceptions.

The third winner is Tharron Robinson, this man has been a true role model within the

Boyz to Kings family for over two years. He displays his love for his wife and children throughout the community with his actions, and by doing so, he places a positive light on marriage and family.



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Meet Your Local E.M.S.

James Byler

Title: Paramedic

Hometown: Tallahassee, Fl.

Why He Chose E.M.S.: "My whole Mom's side of the family is in the medical field and I was hit by a car that made me want to go into it."

Favorite Quote: "Man is not free unless government is limited," by Ronald Reagan.

Favorite Music: Country music.

Favorite Movie: "Beverly Hills Cop."

Favorite TV Show: "Veep."

Favorite Sport: Florida State football.

Hobbies: "Golfing, hanging out with friends and eating Haley's (Albanese) cooking."

Sum Yourself Up: "Happy-go-lucky."

AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Humane Society Spring Fling Saturday, May 10

By Rose Klein
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Suwannee Valley Humane Society will be hosting their annual Spring Fling, Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. This year the humane society will also be celebrating their 30th anniversary and are asking everyone to come out for a day of fun and food to help them celebrate.

At the Spring Fling, you can visit the shelter and meet all the residents and might even find a special friend to adopt and take home. Typically, the adult cats and larger dogs are overlooked when people are browsing for a new furry friend, so as an

incentive, large dogs and adult cats over one year old (only) will not have an adoption fee for the day, meaning you can give a loving cat or dog a good home for free.

Something you might not expect to do when visiting an animal shelter is shopping and eating. The humane society has three thrift stores on the property where you can browse and purchase items for your home, clothing for yourself or new plants for your patio. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided free of charge, but you'll want to bring your wallet for the reasonably-priced baked goods for the shelter's bake sell.

If you have considered donating items to the shelter, bring them along, as they can always use dry dog/cat food, non-clumping cat litter, bleach, old towels, dog/cat food and new or used leashes, collars and carriers. If you recycle, the shelter also uses newspapers and recycles aluminum cans for added shelter income that directly benefits the animals.

The Suwannee Valley Humane Society is located at 1156 SE Bisbee Loop in Madison. For more information, email suwanneevalley@embarqmail.com.

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Question Of The Week (At Madison Veterinary Clinic)

Without verbalizing, "I love you," how do you describe Love?



John Lewis, D.V.M.

"Pets...they show love by showing you affection, wagging their tails and licking you; being all over you."



Amber Lastinger, Vet Staff

"Sugar Gifts...It's a family name for giving somebody a gift, just because you want to."



Amanda Oberschlake, Vet Staff

"Acts of Service, such as taking soup to someone sick or random acts of kindness for somebody without any reason at all."



Wayne Brown, Vet Client

"Marriage is love. I've been married 41 years and I get to wake up and see my wife every morning."



Lindy Cone, Vet Client

"Holding hands with my husband after 32 years of marriage, and a neck rub is even better."



Sheila Martin, Pet Groomer

"Pets...especially for older and retired people. I have older clients whose children have left home and pets become their family members. They allow these people to give and receive love."



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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Take Stock In Children Recipients Thank Kiwanis Club

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

At the Kiwanis Club of Madison meeting on Thursday, May 1, Kiwanis Club presented Madison County Foundation for Excellence and Education with a check for \$2,500, where the donations go to support Take Stock in Children.

Three students from Take Stock in Children scholarship program attended the meeting to give their thanks to the members of the Kiwanis Club.

Iman Taylor was dual enrolled at NFCC and plans to attend NFCC until she receives her A.A. degree. She plans to transfer to FAMU to become an RN.

"I just want to say thank you for

giving me the opportunity (to attend college)," said Taylor.

Nathan Harlan had been sick but he came because it was important to him to thank Kiwanis Club in person. He is going to attend NFCC and wants to transfer to University of Florida.

"I would not miss this opportunity to thank you face to face for what you do for this community and supporting our children and making Madison a better place than it was the day before," said Harlan.

Colby Panaro is dual enrolled at NFCC and has been accepted into Florida State University.

"I just wanted to thank you for this wonderful opportunity and everything you do," said Panaro.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jessie Box, May 1, 2014

B.J. Curtis, Take Stock in Children Student Advocate, Nathan Harlan, Iman Taylor, Colby Panaro, and Jo Willis, Take Stock in Children Program Coordinator, attended the Kiwanis Club meeting to thank them for their support of the program.



As our chapel is nearing completion, we would like to introduce Karen Williams Welch, our Advance Planning/Preneed Specialist to Madison County. She moved to Madison in 1968 when her parents, Jimmy and Sylvia Williams opened JimBob Printing Company. She graduated from Madison County High School in 1981 and also attended NFCC. She married Flynn Welch in 1984 and they have two children, Lukas and Katelyn Welch. Karen began her career with Burns Funeral Home in 2009. She is licensed by the State of Florida as a Preneed Sales and Insurance Agent.

Karen will be at the Madison County Community Bank Conference Room, on the dates listed below, to answer any questions you may have about our new chapel or if you would like to learn more about preplanning/prepaying your funeral. We offer a variety of payment options, including a 5 year, no interest plan. This allows you to "lock in" costs at today's prices, protecting your family from rising costs of services and merchandise.

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RICK LANE RODE HORSE TO JACKSONVILLE AS FUNDRAISER



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Jesse Box May 2, 2014

Rick Lane and his horse stop at the Busy Bee in Madison for a break as they travel back to Quitman, Ga.

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Rick Lane, from the Amazing Horse Ministries stopped in Madison on Friday, May 2 on his way back from Jacksonville. Lane headed out on horseback Monday, April 21 from Quitman, Ga. to Jacksonville as a fundraiser. He wants to become a full-time street evangelist. For the fundraiser, he asked friends, family and any one else to donate a small amount for each mile he rode. The round trip was 250 miles.

On the trip, he slept on picnic tables and churchyards. He met people along the way who would buy

him lunch. It took five days to get to Jacksonville and five days to get back.

"Most people do not go to church so you got to go to where the people are," said Lane. "Take the message of gospel to the streets. Get out of the four walls, so to speak."

Lane spreads the gospel by riding his horse or standing on

the corner of a street with a sign to draw people in. He also uses his horse as a tool to draw people in.

"The horse draws people like crazy," said Lane.

According to the Amazing Horse Ministries Facebook page, Lane is planning on starting his street ministries at the end of this week in Madison.

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Community Bank Celebrates 15th Anniversary



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Rose Klein, May 6, 2014

The Madison County Community Bank, the only locally owned bank in Madison County, is staffed with local residents who are ready to serve their neighbors and community. Management and staff, standing left to right, are: Michelle Bentley, Edward Meggs, Stacey Donaldson, Janet Thompson, Joyce Bethea, Davetta Eyster, Kim Brandies, Mallene Mosier, Janet Maier, Lori Willis, Barbara Driggers, Ginger Robinson, Sue Mathews, Eugenia Pride, Wendy Odom, Marcia Webb, Don Ashley, Sara Pippin, Janie Barnes, Willie Gamalero and Howard Phillips.

Story Submitted

In early 1998, a group of local investors began a series of meetings to determine the need for a locally owned community bank. Once the determination was made, investors in July of 1998 pooled their resources and began the bank chartering application process with both the State of Florida and the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation). In November of that same year, the applications were approved but subject to certain capital requirements. Over the next several months, over \$4.5 million in capital was raised and Madison County Community Bank (MCCB) opened for business on May 6, 1999.

MCCB opened their doors on 53 South in a modular facility but within a few years, due to the bank's growth, began searching for property where a more permanent building could be constructed. In May 2005, the bank purchased their existing property and began developing building

plans. In July of 2007, MCCB opened their current facility at 301 E Base Street in Madison.

The Citizens of Madison County have been very supportive of MCCB over the last 15 years, which is evidenced by the bank's continued growth. The bank's assets have grown from \$16.9 million in December of 1999 to \$107.5 million in December of 2013 and MCCB would like to take this opportunity to thank Madison County for their trust and confidence.

Madison County Community Bank is the only locally owned bank in Madison County and the bank's Board of Directors, Management and Staff are all local with decisions made locally. MCCB's focus is Madison County, which is why you will see them involved in local activities; from supporting youth activities to civic events. They are also heavily involved in charitable causes such as The United Way and Relay for Life and provide educational scholarships to deserving Madison

County students through the Madison County Excellence in Education Foundation and the NFCC (North Florida Community College) Foundation.

From Main Street to Wall Street to Your Street, MCCB offers all the modern products and services coupled with outstanding personal service. Consumer, Business, Residential and Agricultural loans, they have a loan that can be tailored to fit your needs. If you're thinking of investing, they offer a variety of deposit products, from saving and money market accounts to CD's. In addition, they have a Brokerage Department that offers all of the products and services normally associated with national firms, but with the convenience of being here in your community.

Madison County Community Bank considers it an honor and privilege to be your bank and to demonstrate their motto:

People You Know. A Bank You Can Trust.



Madison County Community Bank



Madison County Community Bank was formed in 1999 by a local group of men and women. Their purpose was to bring to our community a bank focused on meeting the banking and financial needs of our local citizens and businesses. The MCCB Board, Management and Staff all live and work in Madison County; all of our decisions are made here, and we are Madison County's only locally owned bank.

In today's environment, we fully understand that your banking choices are virtually unlimited. However, if you prefer a banking relationship which delivers outstanding personal customer service coupled with all of the modern conveniences, then Madison County Community Bank is your clear choice.

We consider it an honor and a privilege to be your bank and to demonstrate our motto:

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CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

Jean McCormick

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.
Jean McCormick has been married to her husband Buddy McCormick for 68 years. They had three children together. They have two sons, Michael and Bruce and a daughter, Rebecca.

The fondest memory she has of her children as Mother's Day approaches is their vacations. They went camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"That was one of the most enjoyable times," said McCormick. "We left responsibility behind and enjoyed the mountains."

Ann Knowles

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.
Ann Knowles raised three girls. The girls are now 43, 35 and 29.

"I think boys would have been easier to raise because they do not need so much," said Knowles.

Knowles' favorite memory of her children is their yearly trips to the beach that they took and still continue to take.

"The joys of watching them grow into

McCormick's favorite part of being a mother was having meals with her children, especially dinner. The family would have conversations about the Bible.

The boys loved picking on their sister, Rebecca.

"They had buried Rebecca, all but her head," said McCormick. "The boys persuaded her to crawl into a culvert and she got stuck. If she could get them in trouble that was to her delight."

McCormick is proud that her children enjoyed reading when they were young and that they carried it with them into adulthood.



Lonnie Mae Robinson

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.
Lonnie Mae Robinson, 83, had six children to raise, four boys and two girls.

"It wasn't quiet for a while," said Robinson.

Robinson has so many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that she has stopped counting.

Robinson does not remember her children ever fighting with each other.

"They got along good together," said

Robinson.

Robinson's children loved to play together and wrestle. Watching them play and be children was one of Robinson's favorite things to do, although, she did enjoy the peace and quiet when they were at school.

Robinson is proud that she was able to put all of her children through high school. Two of her sons went into the Army. The other two went straight into the work force and her daughters became LPNs.



Patricia A. McGhee

By Jessie R. Box
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Patricia A. McGhee raised five children. She had four sons and one daughter.

McGhee remembers a day when she was 23-years-old on a nice sunny day when she and her three oldest children were driving. Another car passed her and her oldest son told her "Mama, catch him."

"I put my foot on the floor," said McGhee. "That was real funny."

Despite the daughter being the only girl, her brothers did not gang up on her.

"She was like a mother figure for them," said McGhee. "She was a little on the bossy side. Still today, they go to her as her being the big sister and

confide in her." One time, McGhee had a fire burning the weeds that she had pulled from the yard. She told her children to not play in the fire.

"My third oldest son put an old palmetto stick in the fire and started a fire that went everywhere, and I put a whooping on him," said McGhee.

"Scared me to death because I was trying to keep it from getting on somebody else's property."

"I'm proud of all of them," said Knowles. "They all finished high school."

McGhee has 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



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SCHOOL

JAMES MADISON PREP HOLDS FIRST BETA CLUB INITIATION



Photo Submitted

In a ceremony held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Tuesday evening, April 29, James Madison Preparatory High School inducted the founding members of its Beta Club from among the inaugural class of students. Founded in 1934, the Beta Club membership requires a 3.4 GPA, and its focus is to "promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students." Dinner for the evening was provided by the JMPHS Board of Directors. Beta Club Sponsor Laurie Sellers directed the induction ceremony afterward. Front row, seated left to right, are: Adam Androski, Courtney Wilder, John Flournoy, Jim Flournoy, Jimmy Durst, Katelyn McCamman, Jacob Curtis, Zakobe Fead and Jacob Johnson. Back row, standing left to right are: Katie Fulford, Ireland Wood, Stephen Miller, Alexis Bowen, Teacher/Sponsor Lauri Sellers, Camryn Strickland, Summer Langell, Nathan Calhoun and Tucker Cherry. Not pictured: Ross Bass, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Central School Nursing Staff Now Has Golf Cart



Photo Submitted

Madison County Central School administrators and nursing staff pause beside the new golf cart that has proven a great asset in getting around the large school campus quickly in response to student needs. From left to right are: Stacey Frakes (Assistant Principal 6th - 8th grades), Yolanda Haynes (Assistant Principal PK - 2nd grade), Jodi Baker (School Health Coordinator), Alicia Ward (LPN), Wendy Silvernell (LPN) and Barbara Pettiford (Assistant Principal 3rd - 5th grades).

Story Submitted

Not only does Madison County Central School have the largest student population in the district, it is also very spread out over a large tract of land, enclosing an enormous courtyard. When students became ill or suffered an injury in a far corner of the campus, the nursing staff faced the problem of getting to the site and/or getting the student to the nurses' station as quickly as possible.

Several months ago, the nursing staff of Madison County Central School submitted a request to the school district to allow the Central School to buy a golf cart to transport nursing staff and students around the large campus. The school board looked into the matter and approved the purchase.

School Health Coordinator Jodi Baker, RN, described how helpful the cart has become.

"The golf cart has been an asset to the nursing staff at the Madison County Central School. This school is the largest in the district, facilitating approximately 1,200 students, and the nurses' clinic triages an average of 80 to 100 students per day. At this time, we have a number of medical conditions such as asthma, sickle cell, muscular dystrophy, heart conditions, nose bleeds, etc., that at times require rapid medical attention.

"The golf cart will assist the nursing staff to swiftly make it across campus for all medical concerns and perform emergency procedures such as CPR or asthma medications that require rapid administration. We have had the golf cart for approximately two weeks and so far we have utilized the golf cart a number of times. We are very thankful for the school district in providing the nurses' clinic with a means of swift transportation that has not only saved time, but helped deliver the best care available to the students and the staff."

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SPORTS

Jacobbi McDaniel Is Grand Marshall For 20th Of May Celebration

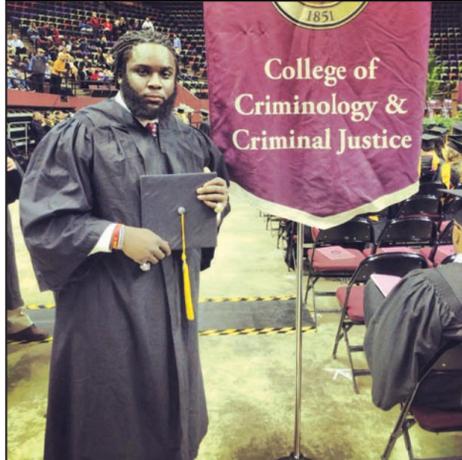


Photo Submitted

Jacobbi McDaniel receives his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from Florida State University.

Story Submitted

Each year, the Madison County Recreation Association 20th of May Jubilee Celebration committee nominates an individual who has displayed exemplary character and high moral standards within the community and abroad.

This year's nominee, Jacobbi McDaniel, proves that our youth can and are striving to achieve greatness. Born Oct. 8, 1989, to Darlann Choice and Terry McDaniel, he has four brothers and one sister, and is a former Madison County High School (Class of 2009) student and athlete.

In 2007, he had 30 tackles, leading his team to the 2A state title in 2007. He also performed well on the basketball court and baseball field. After graduating high school, he was blessed to continue his dreams to play Division I football for the Florida State University Seminoles, a team he always dreamed of playing for. Throughout his years at FSU he faced a lot of adversity on and off the football field, but was dedicated enough to remain focused and achieve his goals. McDaniel was very excited to learn that he was nominated for Grand Marshall for this year's Jubilee Celebration.

"First, I want to thank my Lord and savior Jesus Christ; without him none of this would be possible," he said. "Secondly, the people who nominated me for this humbling award, recognizing my hard work on and off the field at Florida State University. Going into my first year at FSU, I was blessed to be able to play as a freshman. During my freshman year I earned All-America and All-ACC while maintaining an amazing GPA of a 3.5. My sophomore year may have been one/if not the toughest

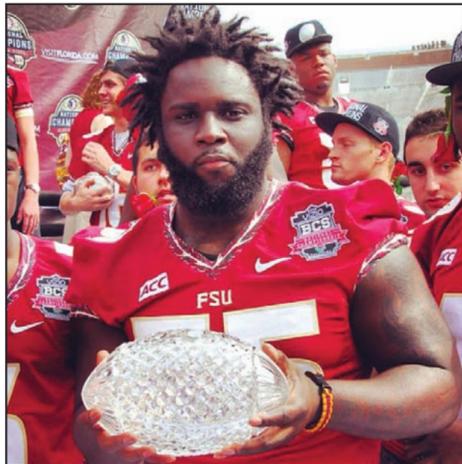


Photo Submitted

2013-14 was a great season for #55, Jaccobi McDaniel, and the FSU Seminoles, winning the National Championship.

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est time of my life. I was hit with everything a college student athlete could possibly face on the field."

Describing his sophomore year as "truly a season of FAITH," McDaniel suffered an injury during the Wake Forest game. It was only the fifth game of the season.

However, he worked very hard the following summer to get back into shape for his junior year season, only to suffer an ankle and leg injury playing against Duke University. He had hoped to have a big junior year and go on to the NFL draft.

"But God had other plans for me," said McDaniel. "The training staff, led by Madison native Jake Pfeil, took very good care of me and helped me gain my confidence back during my rehab. I was not ready to play my senior year so I had to sit out and receive a hardship



Photo Submitted

Jacobbi McDaniel takes a moment on the field with FSU Football Head Coach Jimbo Fisher and his family. On the right are McDaniel's parents, Darlann Choice and Terry McDaniel.

because of my injury. I was granted a fifth year by Jimbo Fisher to prove myself again on the football field, so I took full advantage of my opportunity. There was a lot of talent my senior season and it was going to take a lot of hard work for me to even see the field, but I was up for the challenge. My senior year peaked when we became national champs and I graduated with a degree in Criminology. I am currently training for the NFL draft. I feel that all my faith and perseverance during my time in college got me through tough times. God proves all things are possible."

Jacobbi McDaniel has been viewed as one of the top high school players in the entire nation by ESPN and Sporting News. In baseball, he batted .589 with 13 homers as a senior and was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 33rd round of the 2009 Major League Baseball Draft.

He will be presented as Grand Marshall at the 2014 Miss 20th of May Pageant on May 15 at 7 p.m. We look forward to presenting him with this honor. He will also be present at all the planned events scheduled for the May 20th Jubilee Celebration. On behalf of the Madison County Recreation Association Board and Event Committee, "Kudos" to Jacobbi McDaniel for Event Chair, Tami Brown.

Jesse Solomon Host Football Camp

By Jessie R. Box
 Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Athletes Care Association President Jesse Solomon is hosting the Jesse Solomon Youth Football Camp Saturday, May 17 at the City of Madison Lanier Field. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and the clinic starts at noon and goes until 4 p.m.

Jesse Solomon played at the Madison County High School before he went to play at Florida State University. In 1986, he was drafted to play for the Minnesota

Vikings. Solomon also played for the Dallas Cowboys, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Atlanta Falcons and

about the importance of academics.

There is no fee to register. This event is open to children in the 4th grade up to 10th grade. Parents can register their children online as well. Go to www.usafootball.com/fun and click on Clinics. The name of the clinic is Jesse Solomon Youth Football Camp.

All participants should wear athletic footwear and apparel. A t-shirt and equipment will be provided to the children.

If anyone has any questions, contact Jesse Solomon at (850) 408-2342.



Two Madison County Gymnasts Do Well At State Competition



Photo Submitted

Reagan Jones, eight, displays the three medals she won at the state gymnastics competition in Daytona recently, placing 9th overall in her age division.

By Lynette Norris
 Greene Publishing, Inc.

They make it look so easy.

This is the thought that may cross people's minds when they watch well-practiced, talented gymnasts fly through the air and move so fluidly over bars and beams and floor mats. The young girls amaze, and those who watch marvel. The girls and their parents know that it isn't easy at all, and talent alone isn't enough.

How do they do that?

It takes hard work, dedication, and practice, practice, practice to hone that talent to a point that wows audiences and judges alike, as two young ladies from Madison County did when they competed recently at the state level gymnastic meet in Daytona, Saturday, April 26.

Alana Demps, age

nine, daughter of Allen and Renee Demps, and Reagan Jones, age eight, daughter of T.J. and Summer Jones, competed in several qualifying meets around the state, in Tallahassee, Perry and Orange City, as well as the Gasparilla Classic in St. Petersburg, earning high enough scores in each one to allow them to compete at the state meet in Daytona.

This is Alana's third year as a competing gymnast and her first year as a Level 3. She finished as 1st All Around State Champion for her age division, placing 6th in the vault, 2nd on the bars, 2nd on the balance beam and 3rd place on the floor exercises, winning a total of five medals.

Reagan has been involved in gymnastics for three or four years, has competed for the last two years, and also competed for the first time this year as a Level 3 gymnast. She placed 9th overall in her age division, placing 2nd on the vault, 9th on the bars, 4th on the balance beam, and 9th on the floor exercises, ending with a total of three medals.

The young ladies train at Taylor Gymnastics facility in Perry, Florida (which also hosted one of the qualifying events) under the direction of Lisa Arrowood.

Congratulations, Alana and Reagan.



Photo Submitted

Alana Demps, nine competed at the state competition and placed 1st overall in her age group, earning a total of five medals.

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4/30, 5/7, pd

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5/7, 5/14, c

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Madison County Carrier

May 7, 2014

Section B

Path
of Faith

Isaiah 35:8

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

The Pulpit

WHAT IS FIRST LOVE?

By Rev. Richard Sauls,
Senior Pastor,
Lee Worship Center

"Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because you have left your first love." Revelation 2:4

The structure is:

1. The word "nevertheless" as given by Christ, shows that something is wrong despite their zeal.

2. The One Who knew their works had something against them.

3. The negative falls into the category of them having left their first love.

What is first love?

Many define it as a zeal for Christ, an excitement for Him, a desire to learn more about Him, etc. All these things are true, but these things were said of the Ephesians as well. No! While these things are commendable, and things which every true Christian will have and which they will be engaged, this is not the "first love" of which Jesus mentions here.

"First love" constitutes the proper Faith we

had in Christ when we were first saved, and what he did for us at the Cross. At that time, the Cross never stood bigger. He died for us, and, in doing so, made it possible for us to be redeemed; consequently, there is a love, even a great love that fills our hearts, when we realize what He did for us, so to "leave that first love," is to take our Faith and move it to something else other than the Cross. In other words, we now attempt to live this Christian life by our own strength and machinations, which Paul so intensely taught against. (Gal. 6:14).

Whenever the Christian does this, and, I speak of leaving the Cross and placing one's Faith in something else, he becomes immersed in law. He does not think of it as such, but that's exactly what it is. While it's not the Law of Moses, it definitely is laws made up by other men, or his church denomination, or perhaps even laws made up out of his own mind. Functioning in this capacity, the Holy Spirit will not help him, and he finds himself failing more and more, with attention being drawn constantly to self. This state produces in him a constant "condemnation" (Rom. 8:1), which means he is "walking after the flesh," or else he refuses to heed the condemnation, and becomes self-righteous.

How do we maintain our first love?

Jesus told us how: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross daily, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for

My sake, the same shall save it" (LK. 9:23-24).

"Denying self" as Jesus demanded. Jesus is not speaking of foregoing anything that is comfortable or pleasurable; in other words, making it as hard for one's self as is possible. That's not what the Lord means here. He is referring to the fact that we must not try to live this life by our own strength and ability. We must "deny self" in this respect. We must depend entirely upon Christ, and how do we do that?

We do that through the Cross.

Unfortunately, most Christians think that taking up the Cross refers to suffering. It doesn't! To be sure, Jesus suffered greatly on the Cross, but what He is speaking about in our taking up the Cross, is something else entirely. He means that we should take up its benefits. We must understand that every single thing we receive from the Lord comes through and by the Cross. In other words, it was there that Jesus made it all possible. Consequently, "taking up the Cross," means that we look to what He did there, placing our faith strictly and totally in that. As well, we are to do this "daily" which is somewhat liken to renewing our Faith on a daily basis. If we continue to look to Christ and the Cross then we will never leave our "first love," another Jesus.

We must never separate Jesus from the Cross, and the Cross from Jesus. No, don't make the mistake of thinking that we're trying to put Jesus back on the Cross. The Cross is *cont. on page 3*

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Cont. from page 2B

something that took place many centuries ago, and was done so perfectly that it will never have to be done again, but which has continued benefits, and, in fact, benefits that will never be discontinued. It's the benefits of which we speak. Christ is presently at the Right Hand of the Father. God has "highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name" (Phil 2:9). However, Christ has this exalted position, strictly because of what He did at the Cross.

If the Believer has "left his first love," he has done so because he has moved his Faith from the Cross to something else. To maintain that "first love," and to do so on a perpetual, even "daily" basis, we simply have to keep our Faith anchored in Christ and what He did at the Cross on our behalf.

If we move our Faith from Christ and the Cross to something else, we have then separated Jesus from the Cross. And when we do that, we are left with "another Jesus," which produces "another spirit, and another gospel" (11 Cor. 11:4) and that is where most Christians go wrong. They think because they are extolling Christ, all is well; however, if we think of Christ other than

the Cross, then we have separated Christ from the Cross, which we must never do.

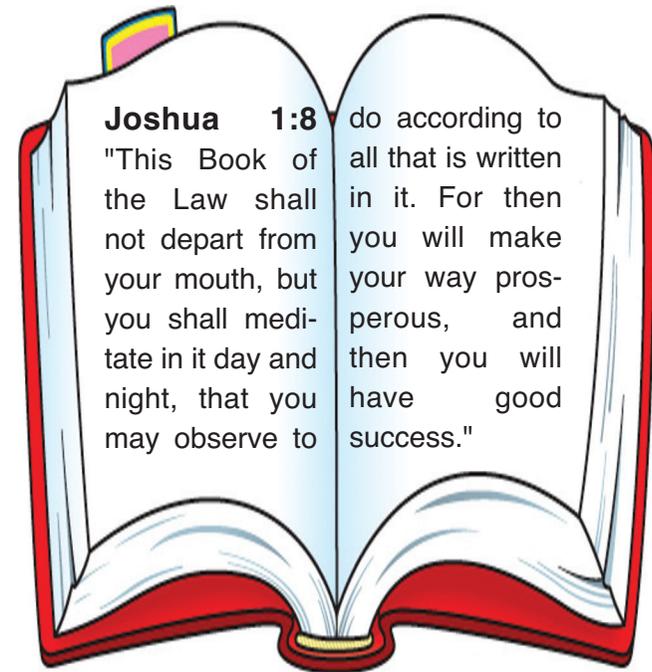
Why do you think that Paul said the following? "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect." (1 Cor. 1:17).

He is saying here that nothing, even water baptism, and as important as that is, must take the place of "the Cross of Christ." He went on to say: "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1Cor.1:18).

The very reason that God became man was to die on a Cross. It would take this, and which was decided before the foundation of the world, to redeem mankind (1 Pet.1:18-20). That doesn't mean that other things done by Christ were not important. In fact, anything and everything that Christ did was of immense significance; however, His chief purpose, the very reason He came, was "the Cross." If we leave that, and go to other things, we "lose our first love."

May the Lord Jesus bless each one as we keep our trust and faith in the Cross. Remember, Christ was the Source, The Cross was the Means.

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Madison County Reads The Bible All The Way Through During Marathon

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Vicki Howerton wistfully wishes that every town and city in America could do what Madison County just accomplished. Wouldn't it be great if next year, everyone of them came together and did a Bible reading marathon leading up to the National Day of Prayer.

The Bible reading marathon is something that Madison County has undertaken for a few years. At first, it began as a lead-in to Down Home Days. Later, the decision was made to scrap it and replace it with prayer meetings during one week in each communi-

ty. Then, the Madison County Ministerial Association came up with a decision that stroked the boundaries of genius – they would hold it during the week leading up to the National Day of Prayer.

A committee formed with different members from different denominations making plans. The week of the marathon arrived and different churches, which had members from different races, all came together and began reading the Bible in the Four Freedoms Park in Madison under the Gazebo.

When this writer arrived with his family and his church family

to read the Bible, late afternoon was being taunted by dusk to turn to dark and the skies seemed to threaten rain. The rain held itself at bay though as Ben Harris, from the First United Methodist Church in Madison, finished reading and handed the chores over to Danny Bemby, who began reading in the first chapter of Romans. After everyone who was at the Gazebo at that time had a hand at reading, this writer began reading from the seventh chapter of I Corinthians. Fortunately, there was an abundance of readers on hand and he didn't have to read very many chapters but he

was grateful and blessed for what he did read.

The thanks and the blessings should go out to all the readers, especially those who spent the lonely nights at the Gazebo reading the Word, and those who spent the days in the heat reading. I know, though, that most of those who read didn't do it for the blessings for themselves but to bless others.

If I had one wish, it would be that there had been photos taken of everyone who read and that the photos could compose a yearbook. In there, we would see the beauty of the people who read, whether their faces are marked

with the lines of time, or the exuberant smile of a teenage girl or the people who seem battle worn because they have had to work or had their own problems but they took time for the Lord and to share with others what He has given them. I personally saw readers, who

ranged from preachers to middle aged people to old timers to little kids to teenagers. I saw blacks, whites, Hispanics all gathered for one purpose – to let Madison County know about the Lord. They were all beautiful.

Photos cont. on page 5B

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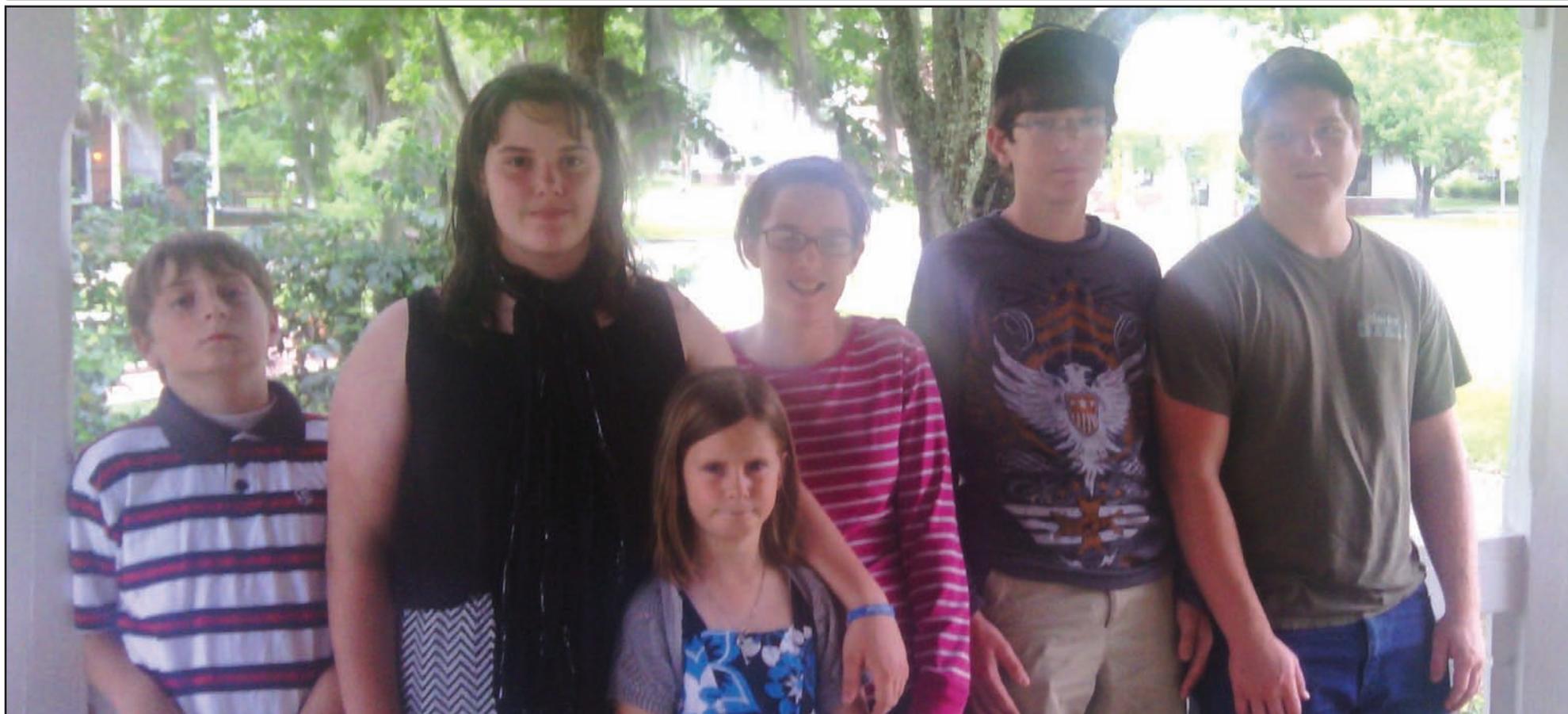
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Bible Reading Marathon cont. from page 4B



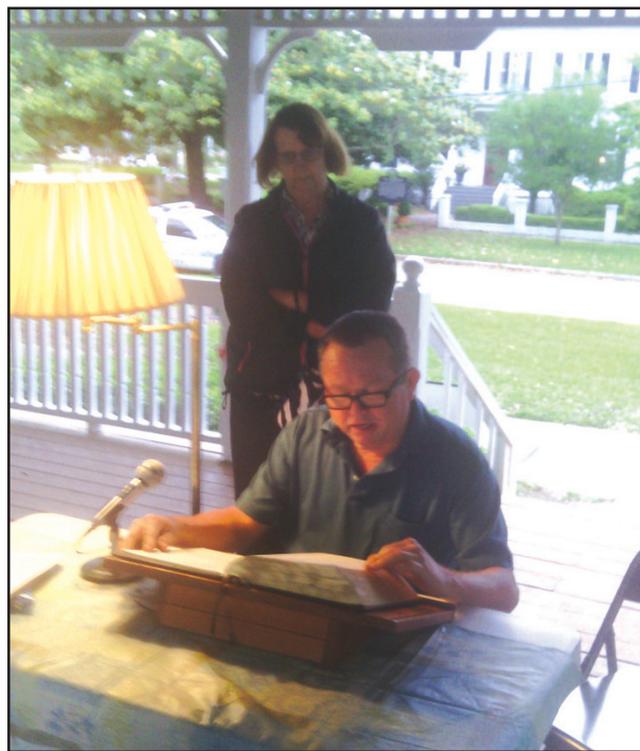
Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, April 30, 2014

Youth await their turn to read the Bible during the marathon. From left to right: Bryce Baldree, Emmie Phillips, Kayleigh McIntosh, Georgia Phillips, J.W. Phillips and Cody Cline.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, April 30, 2014

James Phillips reads the Bible as his wife, Margie, looks on during the Bible reading marathon.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, April 30, 2014

Billy Banks reads the Bible as his wife, Kathy, looks on during the marathon reading session at the Four Freedoms Park in Madison.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bemby, April 30, 2014

Tiffany Phillips reads the Bible, as Janice Flowers looks on during the Bible reading marathon.

Photos cont. on page 6B



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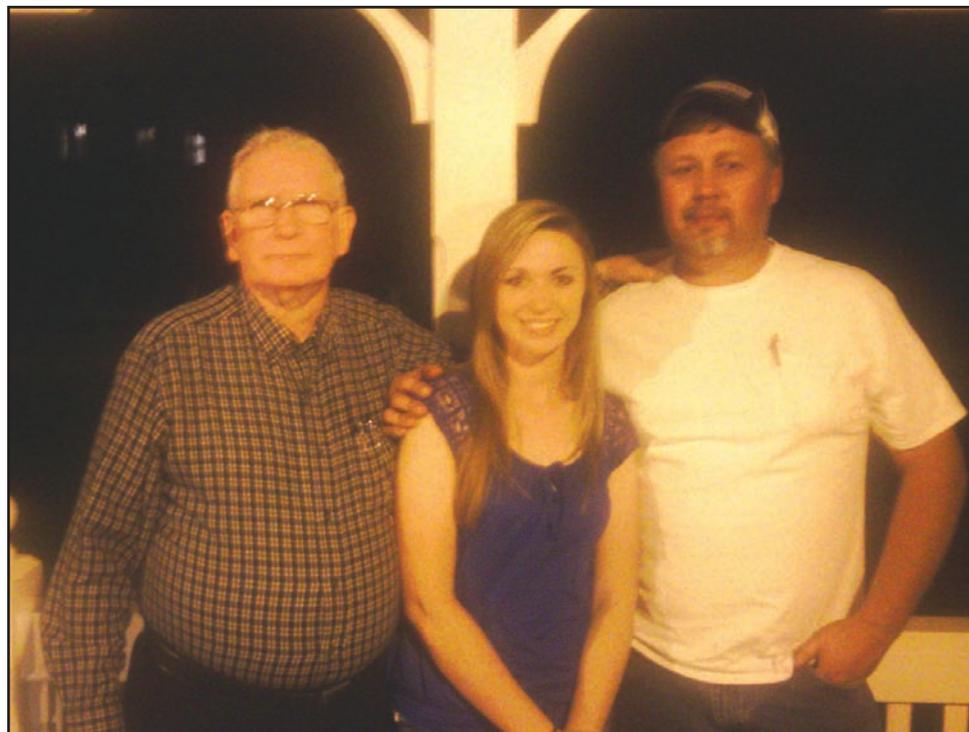
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Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, April 30, 2014

Amanda Doyle, center, is shown with her father, Amon Doyle, on the right, and maternal grandfather, Rev. Retis Flowers on the left, before she reads the Bible during the marathon. She is the daughter of Amon and Edna Doyle and the granddaughter of Retis and Janice Flowers and Rev. Pat and Elaine Doyle.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, April 30, 2014

Bishop Mike Carson and his wife, Angie, were enjoying hearing the Bible being read during the marathon.



Photo submitted by Vicki Howerton

Two gentlemen from Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church await their time to read the Bible at the Bible reading marathon.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, April 30, 2014

Ben Harris reads from the Book of Acts as the Bible reading marathon drew near to a close last Wednesday evening.



Photo submitted by Vicki Howerton

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Pastor and City Commissioner Marcus Hawkins reads the Bible during the marathon.

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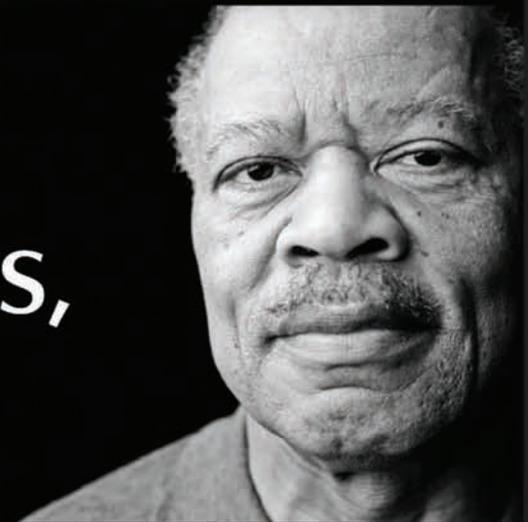
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Church Youth Rewarded For Beating Associate Pastor In Bible Quiz



Photo submitted by Jodie Cooper

Youth pastor Bryant Thigpen and his wife, Stephanie, are shown with the youth who made the trip to Pizza Hut when they were rewarded for beating Tommy Thigpen, associate pastor, in a Bible quiz.

By Jacob Bemby

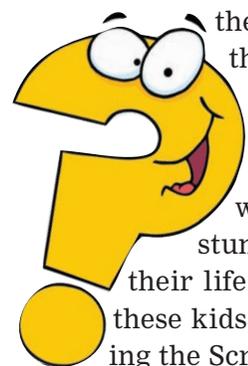
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Imagine being the pastor of a church and having to wear a t-shirt which reads, "I'm the pastor and I'm not smarter than the youth group." That's the position that Tommy Thigpen, pastor-in-waiting at Bible Deliverance Church, found himself in after losing a Bible quiz competition to the church's youth group on April 9.

In addition to having the glee that comes with seeing the pastor wear the dreaded t-shirt, the group was also rewarded with a trip to Pizza Hut two weeks later on April 23.

Before the competition, the youth group was given a study guide which contained multiple choice and true/false questions from Matthew

17 and 18. The associate pastor was just told to study Matthew 1-20. When the quiz was done, Associate Pastor Thigpen came up on the losing end, falling by two questions to the youth.



Bryant Thigpen, the church's youth pastor, said, "I'm very excited about where the youth program is headed and how the kids were excited to dig in God's word. While they were preparing for the challenge to stump the pastor, they learned Scriptures that will impact their life for eternity, and had fun doing it. I'm very proud of these kids and the hard work they put into studying and learning the Scriptures."

A total of 22 young people made the trek to Pizza Hut, where they enjoyed the delicious food and each other's company and fellowship.

Those youth participating in the quiz included: Shane Green, Jaime Retalic, Justin Cooper, Brea Glaze, Chris Glaze, Kaitlyn Hutchinson, Hagan Hutchinson and Kyle Sealey.

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Pine Grove Baptist Celebrates Easter



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Pastor Timmy Dyke is pictured with his wife, Jenny, after the Easter service at Pine Grove Baptist Church.

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Pine Grove Baptist Church celebrated their Easter service with a cantata type music, followed by dinner on the grounds after the service on April 20.

The Good Friday service held on April 18 was the end of a 40-day fast for the members of the congrega-

tion as they prayed to see God move in their church. There was a solemn assembly that evening, which included communion being served. The service ended with a feast of celebration.

Rev. Timmy Dyke is the pastor of the church, which is located at 4084 NE Rocky Ford Road, north of Madison.



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Michelle Jones was all smiles following the Easter service at Pine Grove Baptist Church.



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Thomas Kelley, the music director at Pine Grove Baptist Church, was responsible for the well-received cantata music at the church's Easter service.



Pine Grove Baptist Partakes Of Authentic Jewish Passover Meal



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Greg Savitt, center, takes time out for a photo with Gary and Jean Mills, after Savitt presented an authentic Passover meal at Pine Grove Baptist.

By Jacob Bemby
Greene Publishing, Inc.

In early April, the members of Pine Grove Baptist Church had the pleasure of hearing a Jewish missionary speak and explain the Jewish celebration of Passover.

The missionary was Gary Savitt and he presented the Passover meal to the members.

Passover is the major Jewish spring holiday, commemorating the deliverance of the Hebrew children from slavery in Egypt. It lasts seven or eight days in early spring, from the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan to the 22nd day. According to the website, *christianity.about.com*: "The Hebrew word, Pesach means "to pass over." During Passover Jews take part in a meal known as the Seder which incorporates the retelling of the story of Exodus and

God's deliverance from bondage in Egypt. Each participant of the Passover Seder experiences in a personal way, a national celebration of freedom through God's intervention and deliverance. Hag HaMatzah or the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Yom HaBikkurim or Firstfruits are both mentioned in 23 as separate feasts, however, today Jews celebrate all three feasts as part of the eight-day Passover holiday."

Pat Bush, who is a member of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, told this writer that she and her husband, Norman, had met Savitt 10 years ago and had remained in touch with him through Chosen People Ministries.

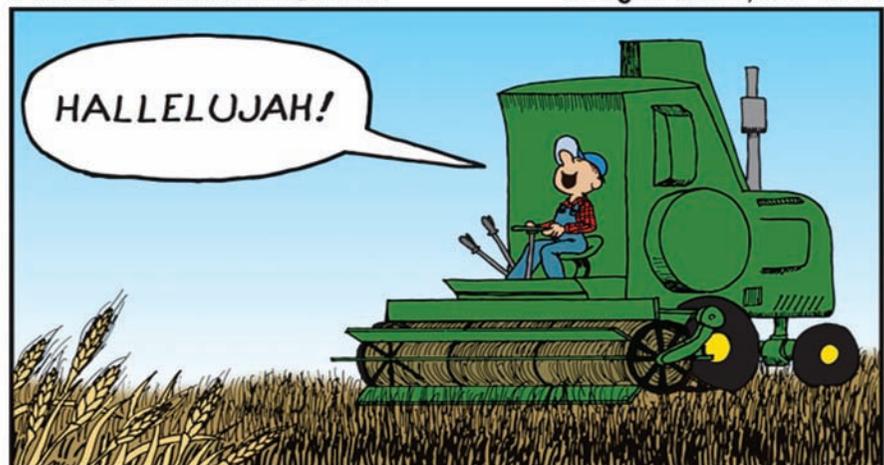
Rev. Timmy Dyke is the pastor of Pine Grove Baptist, which is located at 4034 NE Rocky Ford Road, north of Madison.

Photos cont. on page 11B

HAPPY PASSOVER

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May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.
— PSALM 67:5-6 NIV

Passover Cont. From Page 10B



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Pat and Norman Bush met Greg Savitt, center, 10 years ago and have kept up with him through Chosen People Ministries. He came to the church they attend and presented a Passover meal to the congregation.



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Greg Savitt stands in the fellowship hall at Pine Grove Baptist Church, where he presented an authentic Passover meal.



Photo submitted by Pat Bush

Greg Savitt poses for the camera following the Passover meal he presented at Pine Grove Baptist. In the background is the church's now svelte pastor, Timmy Dyke.

Jimmy Fletcher To Speak At Brotherhood Meeting

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Jimmy Fletcher will be the guest speaker at the monthly brotherhood meeting, sponsored by New Home Baptist Church, at the New Home Fire Department on Thursday, May 15. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.

Fletcher is current-

ly the pastor of Sirmans Missionary Baptist Church. He was formerly a Florida Department of Agriculture agent, Madison County deputy and City of Madison police officer. He also worked for Tommy Greene Farms before going into law enforcement, upon his graduation from the Law Enforcement Academy

at North Florida Community College.

In addition to the men's assembly that evening, beginning at 6 p.m., there will also be a meeting for the ladies at the New Home Baptist Church fellowship hall.

Steak is set for the menu. A \$10 donation will be accepted.

Rev. Benjie Dyal is the pastor of New Home Baptist Church.

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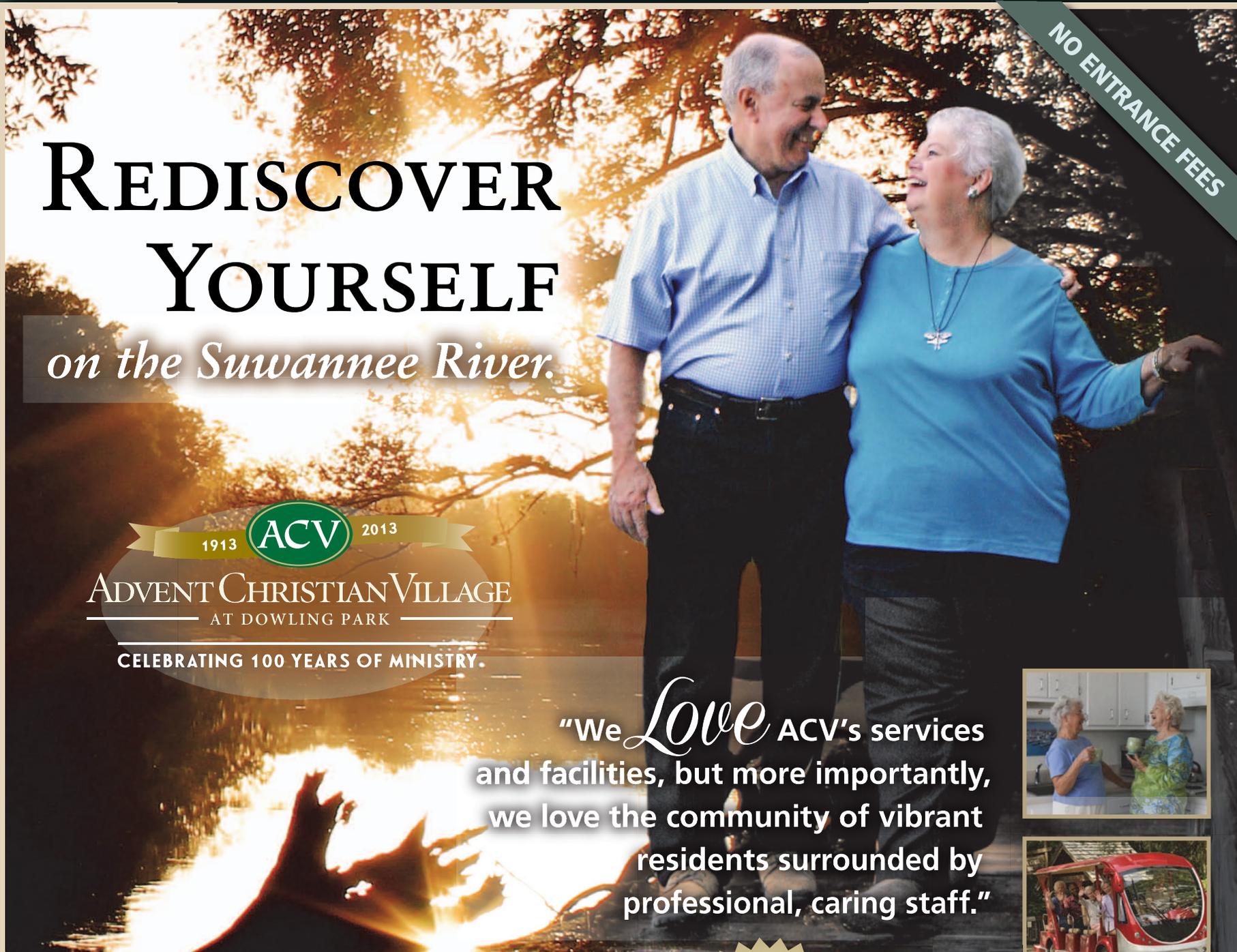
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