

MIRACLE ON N. CHERRY ST.

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

For Venessa Eldewer, the house warming and dedication ceremony on North Cherry Street on Monday morning, Dec. 12, was particularly poignant and meaningful — representing — as it did for her — a veritable Christmas gift, if not a very miracle.

Call it Miracle on North Cherry Street.

The new house, you see — all 1,000 square feet of it, complete with hardwood floors, two

bedrooms, central air and heating, modern appliances, fenced-in backyard, handicap ramp and landscaped grounds — was a donation, resulting from the combined efforts of students at Godby High School, a group at First United Methodist Church of Monticello, and a key person at Good Will Industries of the Big Bend, Inc.

Or more specifically, it was the result of the efforts of Riley Palmer, of Riley Palmer Construction Company; Godby High School stu-

dents in the construction program taught by Roy Albertson; Ed Vollertsen and other members of the First United Methodist Church Men's

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ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Dec. 12, 2011

A brief ceremony was held Monday morning at the house on N. Cherry Street to celebrate the project's conclusion and the official handing of the house keys to Venessa Eldewer. From left to right are Riley Palmer, Eldewer, and Fred Shelfer.



Kenya Maurice Brantley

MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED ARSON OF OCCUPIED DWELLING

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

A Monticello man was charged last week with attempted arson of an occupied dwelling after trying to set fire to the home of his parents while his parents were still inside.

The Monticello Police Department reported that on December 6 at 12:17 a.m., Cpl. Brent Paramore was dispatched to a call at the Wirick Street residence in reference to someone pouring gaso-

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VEHICLE ROLL OVER ON I-10

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Luckily, a vehicle roll over on the Interstate late Monday night did not block traffic or result in road blockage.

Florida Highway Patrol reported that on Monday, December 12 at 11:10 p.m., Charles Thomson, 61, of Savage, MN, was driving a 2008 Ford pickup truck with a camper in two on I-10 eastbound in the outside lane, two miles west of CR-257.

Thomson passed another large vehicle traveling eastbound and lost

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Inside Today's Edition!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

JEFFERSON TIGERS, 2011 STATE 1A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EDITION

Attorneys' Contracts Now In Written Form, Not Oral

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writing

The Jefferson County Commission recently renewed Planning Attorney Scott Shirley's contract for legal services and put off a decision on County Attorney Buck Bird's contract until Thursday, Dec. 15, to allow time for all commissioners to review the latter document in the interim.

For whatever reason, Commissioner Betsy Barfield had not received a copy of Bird's contract in time for its scheduled vote on Thursday morning, Dec. 1.

Commissioner Stephen Fulford, who as former chairman negotiated the contracts with the two attorneys, reported to the board that the two documents had no contextual changes.

In fact, what the two documents did was to put into written form what had previously existed as oral agreements, he said.

"These contracts were developed to record and reflect how things operate now," Fulford said.

He said the notable thing was the monetary compensation. Whereas both attorneys' retainers were presently tied to a commissioner's annual salary, the

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BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAILS FUNDING IN HAND, OR LIKELY

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Jefferson County Commission Chairman Hines Boyd was the bearer of some good news recently, relative to several transportation projects slated for Jefferson County in the not too distant future.

Boyd is Jefferson County's representative on the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA), the agency assigned responsibility for carrying out mid and long range transportation planning for Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Jefferson counties.

The CRTPA's stated mission is ultimately to develop a long-

range transportation plan that creates "an integrated regional multimodal transportation network that supports development patterns and promotes economic growth."

Boyd told his colleagues last month that the CRTPA had approved \$85,000 for the planning of a bicycle/pedestrian trails in Jefferson County, in addition to the \$130,000 allocated earlier for the project.

He said the CRTPA had also approved a combined \$430,000 for the planning and implementation of a sidewalk extension along Mamie Scott Drive from Mississippi Street to the Texas Hill cutoff. He said the \$30,000 for the planning phase of the

project was scheduled to come in 2014, with the \$400,000 for the implementation phase to come in 2015.

Boyd said another project that he had broached and that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) appeared receptive to was the idea of extending the sidewalk on the east side of US 19 South from the building supply center to the medical clinic near Nacoosa Road.

Boyd said the project was particularly relevant now, given that Gerry Medical Clinic was expected to stop serving primary care patients and "all primary care services will be

Please See BIKE Page 3



Photo By Fran Hunt

It's Time To Open Your Hearts

It's not just people who open their hearts during the holidays to volunteer to help others. Last week, three-year old Austin was seen outside of Fred's helping her human family member, Billie McClellan, collect funds for The Salvation Army.

AMERICAN HUNTER STILL HANGING IN

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writing

A little more than a year after county officials gave the owners of a Tallahassee-based company the go-ahead to proceed with the development of a site at the industrial park for relocation of their business here, the project is still on the drawing board.

Economic Development Director Julie Conley informed the Jefferson County Commission and Economic Development Council (EDC) at a joint meeting on Monday, Dec. 12, that she has been meeting with Sarah and Tom Cooksey, owners of American Hunter Inc., and the plan is being revised.

"The project hasn't fallen off the rails," Conley assured the two boards.

But it had been on hold, she said, conceding that it was classic case of much enthusiasm followed by sticker shock when the Cooksey had realized how

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Viewpoints & Opinions

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

DECEMBER 16, 17

Second Harvest Food Program, together with the churches of New Bethel AME, Elizabeth MB, Hickory Hill MB, Mt. Pleasant AME and Philadelphia MB, will provide food to anyone needing assistance including the needy, infants and the elderly. This is done monthly with distribution from 9 to 10 a.m. usually on the fourth Saturday at the New Bethel AME Church located at 6496 Ashville Highway. Volunteers are also welcome to come on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. to help bag the food packages. Contact Nellie Randall at 850-997-5605 or 850-997-6929 to volunteer or for more information about this program.

DECEMBER 17

Saint Phillip AME Church in collaboration with Tobacco Free Jefferson Partnership and 4H Extension Service will host a Tobacco Free Awareness Day on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saint Phillip AMEC is a partner church with Tobacco Prevention Education and Cessation and the Jefferson County Health Department. This program promotes education and aid to help those who are faced with tobacco challenges as well as those who just need information. The program will consist of activities for youth and adults. The presenter will be Kristin Jackson, with the 4H Extension Service. You are invited to come and bring your family.

There will be plenty of food and prizes. For more information contact Gloria Cox, community health educator at 850 879-4425 or go to <http://profile.to/gloriacox/>

DECEMBER 17

Solomon Court #86 of Monticello, FL invite the community to celebrate it Pre-Holiday Gospel Singing Extravaganza at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church on Cypress Street. Come and share in this occasion. For more information contact Heroine Elouise H. Livingston, MAM at 850-342-3389 or 850-997-0186.

DECEMBER 18

Young Reapers Missionary Baptist Church Christmas Program at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Alford Bennett, pastor.

DECEMBER 18

Central Baptist Church will hold a Christmas Musical on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. This musical includes a captivating story about a small town and how God moves in the hearts of the community as they show love to a total stranger. Giving is, after all, what Christmas is all about: God sending His one and only Son to bring us a gift we did not deserve... the free gift of salvation. The story is combined with familiar classic songs and hymns, along with new songs of the season. Choir will be under the leadership of Tonya Roberts. Join and celebrate God's wonderful Gifts. Call Rev. Daryl Adams, pastor, at 850-251-0129 for

more information.

DECEMBER 18

Sunday of Silence will be held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. every second Sunday of each month at One Heart Earth Center. It's a non-denominational time of stillness and reflection. A vegetarian lunch is offered at noon; served and eaten in silence. Gentle Hatha Yoga will begin at 10 a.m. with instructor Joy Moore. Mats are provided. OHEC is located at 450 West Madison Street in downtown Monticello and is a non-profit 501c3 public charity. Donations appreciated and are tax deductible. For more information contact Sallie Worley at oneheartearthcenter@embarqmail.com or 850-997-7373.

DECEMBER 21-23

First Corinthian Church will hold its Winter Revival at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at 955 Lemon Street in Monticello. For more information on how you can be involved, contact Rev. John Jones, pastor, at 850-445-0076.

DECEMBER 22

Bible Study every Thursday at the Lloyd Woman's Club at 7 p.m. Join with Elder Linda Ross for an evening of Christian faith. For more information contact her at 850-322-3424.

DECEMBER 23

Tent of the Holy Guests offers prayer for the sick and a special scripture message every Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Tent is located at 295 West Palmer Mill in Monticello.

Deb's Notes
Drop A Note To
Debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com

Kim Kennedy tells me that she still has a few fresh holiday wreaths for purchase at Gelling's Floral Design at the corner of Dogwood and Cherry streets in downtown Monticello. They are 22" and 24" and she's only asking \$25 each. She's got lots of other gift ideas, at great low prices.

The annual Havana Nights event is just around the corner on Friday, January 27, 2012 at the Capital City Country Club from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Ticket cost is \$50 per person. Join for an evening of live entertainment by 'Wailin' Wolves', dancing, gaming, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and some really great fun. Proceeds will benefit the programs of Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend. Sponsorship opportunities are still available just contact Judie Miller at jmiller@kidsincorporated.org or by phone at 850-414-9800x104, or visit the Kids website at www.kidsincorporated.org/events

Margie Stern tells me that her business has had a few monthly winners that she'd like to brag about. The November raffle winner at The Peddler's Marketplace is Terri Stone. October's raffle winner was Fay Carroll. September's raffle winner was Bonnie Foster. These raffle winners have all received \$25 gift certificates to shop again at The Peddler's Marketplace. For store hours and days contact mstern3409@aol.com

Royce Hall was selected as a Style Icon for Cotton, Inc., a once in a lifetime opportunity, in association with the E! and MTV networks. I will be doing an article in next week's paper detailing his experience and I will be adding a few of his favorite photos. So, take time to look over the write-up, because he is very excited about it... as he should be.

This being the 'Year of the Girl', the VFW announces that Girl Scout Gold Award recipients are now eligible to compete for the VFW Scout of the Year Scholarships. Delegates at the 112th VFW National Convention voted to establish Girl Scouts of the USA as an official VFW Youth Activity, making them newly eligible for the scholarships. Each year, the VFW selects three young people, of the Boy or Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venturing Crew who have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community. The first place winner receives a \$5,000 award, the second place winner receives a \$3,000 award and the third place winner receives \$1,000. To learn more about VFW Scout of the Year Scholarships, visit <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Scout-of-the-Year-Scholarship/>

Farmer Pam says that her 'Backyard Farm' recycle program continues for egg cartons. If you'd care to recycle your egg cartons, contact her at 850-997-4647 to find out more about this program.

There is a government program that helps homeowners who are struggling with mortgage payments. It's called the 'Making Home Affordable' program and it could just be your answer to keeping your home. Go to makinghomeaffordable.gov or call 1-888-995-HOPE (4673) to see if you are eligible.

Bill Hopkins tells me that there will be a Christmas Eve Service beginning at 10 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 at the Christ Episcopal Church. From 10 to 11 p.m.: Special Music and from 11 p.m. to 12 a.m. the Christmas Eve Service. Guest Priest Pastor Teri Monica invites the community to join with the church family in celebrating the birth of Christ. There will be no Sunday Church Service on December 25.

Mary Singletary reminds me that Winn Dixie will receive a visit from Santa Claus on Thursday, December 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the front area of the store, across from the cashiers. So, bring the children and your cameras. And, don't forget those lists, for shopping and for Santa!

The Sons of Allen of the Union Bethel Circuit will host its first Christmas Drive. President Leman Ulee is very excited about giving back to the community. "We will be donating Christmas gifts to the local nursing homes. In addition, we will be donating gifts to several less fortunate kids." Leman indicated that the organization has launched several food drives in which food baskets will be donated once a month to a deserving family. Also, the organization has identified several homes that will receive their assistance in clean-up efforts within the community. The main goals of the Sons of Allen of Union Bethel Circuit is to be positive role models to teens and to persuade its male members to return to church and become active participants of the group. Anyone who would like to know more about this organization should contact Ulee at 850-274-6268.

Letters To The Editor

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

Solid Waste Director Addresses Anonymous Complaints

Hi, let me introduce myself. My name is Beth Letchworth and I am the Director of the Solid Waste Department here in Jefferson County. I have recently read things being said about some of my employees in the "Stinger" section of the newspaper. The thing about it is I have not received one phone call in reference to these allegations. I would appreciate it if someone has a problem with an employee with this Department they call and report it through the proper channels. The phone number to the Solid Waste Department is (850)

342-0184, the email is bletchworth@jeffersoncountyfl.gov. You would think with all of the cell phones with camera capability someone could get a photo of such allegations. If you prefer, the County Coordinator's Office, Mr. Roy Schleicher is (850) 342-0287. People can say anything they like in the "Stinger" section of the paper and think they will be taken seriously when they won't even sign their name to it. Thank you.

Beth Letchworth

LINCOLN KNEW BEST

Abraham Lincoln said it best:

*You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling the wage payer down.
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.
You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.*

What a philosophy of government embodied in a few words! The philosophy of Lincoln as stated in the above statements is completely the opposite of the policies that have been put in place since the 1960's and followed by both republican and democratic administrations. The policies in place have allowed a goodly portion of our population to become dependent on the government and have encouraged continued dependence. We have a

large number of people that depend on government handouts for housing, food, health care, and other benefits. We do not encourage people to become self-reliant. Rather the programs implemented have encouraged continued reliance on government handouts.

In the 1950s, according to my grandfather, if people did not work they did not eat. People worked for a living. There were few government handouts. There were a lot of hard-working people. They took pride in themselves and their work. By and large people had great self-respect.

I am not saying that we should return to the 1950s. But I am saying that we need to stop approving programs that keep people continually dependent upon the government. We need to pursue programs that encourage self-improvement. Programs that encourage people to work and produce. Programs that teach people how to fish rather giving them fish. If you teach people how to fish they become self-reliant and can feed themselves thereafter. If you give them fish the government will have to give them fish for the rest of their lives.

Let us follow the philosophies of Lincoln. Do not encourage class warfare. Do not encourage people to be the best they can be. Do not fight against the rich. Encourage the rich to invest in America and create jobs. Do encourage people to work and become rich themselves. Open the gates for prosperity and teach everyone to improve and work to help to make this country better. Do not be jealous and envious of the rich. Become rich by pursuing the opportunities available to you in this country. Improve our educational system to emphasize the positives about this country. Teach true American history. Do not allow our educational system to downgrade the capitalistic system. Capitalism is an imperfect system but it is the best that has ever been devised. Socialism destroys individual initiative. Capitalism enhances it. Under capitalism the collective efforts of the individuals will produce prosperity. In spite of all the problems we have recently experienced our country remains as the best example of the prosperity produced by capitalism.

Amber McClellan

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Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Friday's paper.
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There will be a \$100 charge for Affidavits.

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From Page One

Miracle

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This 1,000 sq. ft. house was built by Godby High School students and underwritten by Goodwill and the First United Methodist Church of Monticello.

Group; and Fred Shelfer, president and CEO of Good Will Industries of the Big Bend.

Eldewer, a Jefferson County resident since 1997, suffers from muscular sclerosis, a debilitating illness that makes it difficult for her to perform the simplest of tasks, such as walking. Jobless since she was diagnosed with the disease in 2005, Eldewer has been living on her meager monthly disability checks, which explains her deplorable housing situation prior to Monday.

As Palmer tells it, he got involved with the project sometime in the spring of 2010, when Vollertsen asked him to inspect Eldewer's dwelling and determine what it would take to repair it. Palmer also is a member of the Methodist Men Group. He says his inspection quickly revealed that the structure was beyond repair.

Not only did the house lack potable water or an approved septic tank system, it was termite infested, Palmer says. All the same, he was so taken with Eldewer's plight, and her positive outlook notwithstanding her circumstances, that he determined to help her, he says.

"I was touched," Palmer says, noting that like him, Eldewer is a

Godby High graduate. "It was all very emotional. She had no septic tank and no water onsite. She was collecting things from the dumpsters to repair the house. I realized how much I had by comparison. I then came up with the idea of building her a new house."

When Palmer told Eldewer what he had in mind, it was her turn to be shocked, and not a little touched. As she tells it, she had initially called Debbie Snapp, a former News coworker, simply to ask if the latter knew of anyone who could help her with her housing situation. Snapp referred her to Vollertsen, who referred her to Palmer.

At the time, Eldewer was living next door to the house she planned to repair, in a dilapidated singlewide trailer that she describes as "rough".

"When I called him (Palmer), all I wanted him to do was to level the floor and put plywood down so I could do the rest on my own," says Eldewer, adding that she had been collecting windows, doors, countertops, wiring and other construction materials that she could find at the dumpsters in preparation for her planned repair of the house.

"Riley explained to me how simple it would be to tear down the house and build a new

one," Eldewer continues. "He said, 'let me do some checking.' I was not at all expecting this. I was expecting him to level the floor."

Riley says his initial idea was to contact Habitat for Humanity or some similar nonprofit housing organization that builds affordable housing in partnership with people in need. But ultimately he turned to Goodwill and Shelfer, whom he knew.

The bottom line is that Goodwill agreed to underwrite the project in partnership with the First United Methodist Church. About 100 Godby High students then planned, designed and constructed the house over nearly a year's period, and a person who wishes to remain anonymous donated the property on North Cherry Street.

Palmer says Farmers and Merchants Bank and Malloy Nursery also contributed to the project in one form or another.

Eldewer says about six months ago, Palmer and his wife, Diane, picked her up and drove her to Godby High, ostensibly to see how the school had changed in the intervening years since their respective graduations. She says she had no idea why Palmer drove around to the rear of the school and showed her a build-

ing.

"I thought it was a portable," she says. "He said, 'this is your new home'. I about fell to my knees. When I got out of the car, I hugged him and started bawling. There's not a word big enough to say thank you."

On Nov. 8, the newly constructed house was trucked from Godby High to its Monticello location on North Cherry Street, and the final finishing details were undertaken, such as the landscaping of the property, fencing of the backyard, and connecting it to the utilities. The total cost of the project — including the construction, property, moving and setup costs — was \$124,000.

"It was truly a miracle," Palmer says. "It wouldn't have happened without the Grace of God."

About 40 people gathered at the North Cherry Street house on Monday morning to celebrate the project's completion and the handing of the house keys to Eldewer. Attending the event were Palmer, Shelfer, Vollertsen, Eldewer's friends and relatives, other members of the Men's Group and Goodwill, and media representatives. It was a truly heartwarming affair, in keeping with the Christmas spirit, notwithstanding the raw chill in the air.

Contracts

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new contract allowed 15 hours of legal service for a retainer fee, he said.

Hours above the 15 hours would be billed at \$175 hourly for the attorneys and \$60 hourly for their paralegals, Fulford said.

"It's an incentive to keep meetings short so we won't have to pay extra," Fulford said, referring to the recent long meetings, and not without some intended humor. He added that it was Shirley's representation that his legal work on behalf of the county rarely exceeded 15 hours.

Barfield asked why the board hadn't put the contracts out for bids?

Fulford said it had to do with cost considerations.

"If we bid this work out, we'll be paying a lot more for legal services," he said. "This is half of what it would cost for legal services if we bid it out."

Barfield said she was pleased that Shirley had included code enforcement service as part of his contract.

She was also pleased to see that he had included a conflict-of-interest provision in his contract, she said. She noted that the issue of attorney conflict-of-interest charges had arisen in the recent past over the Wacissa River property transfer and related issues.

"I appreciate you putting a conflict-of-interest clause in your contract," Barfield said.

But she had a concern whether 15 hours were sufficient time for the county's business, she said.

Shirley assured her that 15 hours was more than adequate. What's more, he wouldn't bill for telephone calls that were 15 minutes or under, nor would he include his travel time in the 15 hours, as was the standard practice, he said.

Bird offered that his contract was identical to Shirley's and that his responses also were in line with Shirley's responses.

Barfield, however, said she still would prefer to review Bird's contract before voting on it. In deference to her request, the commission put Bird's contract on the Dec. 15 agenda for discussion and proceeded with approval of Shirley's contract.

Bike

continued from page 1

shifted to the clinic south of town."

The sidewalk extension, he said, would also nicely serve as a potential connection to the bicycle trail that is just east of US 19, making for a nice bicycle/pedestrian loop.

Boyd said the FDOT was amenable to the idea, but suggested that it come through the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST).

Comprised of city and county elected officials and staff, as well as law enforcement representatives, interested citizens and a FDOT staff member, the CTST acts as a liaison between the local community and the FDOT by identifying traffic safety and other related problems that warrant addressing and don't require large-scale expenditures by the state.

American Hunter

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much it would actually cost to pull off construction of the building.

She said the Cookseys had eliminated 10,000 feet of floor space from the 40,000 sq. foot warehouse they had originally planned to build on the 7.4-acre parcel they purchased at the industrial park.

Meanwhile, she was exploring the possibility of the county securing a USDA Rural Development grant/loan and constructing the building itself, Conley said. She said the deal would include the Cookseys deeding the property back to the county. The county could then lease the building to American Hunters, with the latter having the option to purchase it eventually.

The arrangement would be the same as the one that county officials worked out with Florida SafeRider, the motorcycle training and licensing school that formerly resided at the industrial park, Conley said.

"But at least we're in contact again," she said of her recent meetings with the Cookseys.

American Hunter Inc. is a retail and distribution company that deals in sporting goods via the Internet.

The Cookseys first approached county officials with the project in August 2010. At the time, the couple was in a rush to proceed with construction. Consequently, the Planning and County Commissions and county staff charged with the task put the permitting process on fast forward to expedite the project. That was all before the "sticker shock", as Conley called it, hit home.

Roll Over

continued from page 1

control of the vehicle due to the wind shear.

The camper began to sway erratically and the vehicle traveled into the median and overturned. The vehicle and the camper came to rest on its roof.

FHP did not deem the crash to be alcohol-related and Thomson was wearing a seatbelt and uninjured. The vehicle and camper sustained \$20,000 damage and no other property was damaged due to the crash.

No charges were filed.

Arson

continued from page 1A

line all around the house.

Upon arrival Officer Parramore smelled the strong odor of a gasoline like substance in the air. He also smelled the gasoline like substance inside the house and a clear liquid was found on the kitchen floor, leading from the bedroom door of the parents of Kenya Maurice Brantley, 31, of Monticello, and continuing through the front of the house.

The officer then made contact with Brantley's father, who stated that his son (Brantley) had just come in the house and poured gasoline from the front door to the bedroom door. He also stated that Brantley was messing with his

bedroom door handle after pouring the gasoline in the house and when he went to the door to find out about the smell of gasoline, his son was crouched down holding a knife.

Brantley's mother confirmed the father's account of the incident. She also stated that prior to going to bed that Brantley was talking towards a picture in the living room stating that he was going burn down the house. She added that she believes Brantley was waiting for her by the door and was going to come at her with the knife but didn't because his father opened the door instead.

Officer Parramore then left

the scene and made contact with Brantley on Cherry Street near the old City Barn, performed a pat down on him and informed him why he was stopping him.

While performing the pat down for a knife the officer felt a lighter in Brantley's right side pocket.

He placed Brantley under arrest and transported him to the County Jail where he was booked and charged with aggravated domestic assault and attempted arson of an occupied dwelling.

Bond was withheld pending a psychological evaluation and he remained at the County Jail December 13.



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Jefferson County Living

TIPS TO PREVENT WINTER FIRES

With cold nights quickly over the horizon, residents facing energy shortage are turning to alternate sources of home heating.

Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews said that statistically speaking, fires have a greater chance of starting in home during this time of year.

The old potbellied and Franklin stove market, again this year is predicted to zoom.

Space heaters are beginning to sell rapidly, or are coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood or manmade logs. All of the supplementary heat sources can be good. But they can introduce the danger of fire into the home.

Matthews offers the following home fire safety tips:

Space heaters and heating stoves are used throughout the nation to increase the warmth in rooms. They do the job but can be dangerous.

To use them safely:

Never use fuel-burning appliances without proper vents to the outside. Burning fuel such as kerosene, coal or propane, produces deadly

fumes.

Be sure your heater is in good working condition. All room heaters need frequent checkups and cleaning. A dirty or neglected heater is a critical fire hazard.

Use only the proper fuel for each heater. Never introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that fuel.

Never quicken a fire with kerosene or gasoline.

Keep gasoline, or other flammable liquids, stored outside of the home at all times.

Maintain adequate clearance in all directions around space heaters and heating stoves. Surrounding surfaces should not become too hot for your bare hand.

Clean your fireplace and chimney of all debris, such as creosote, an extremely flammable residue from wood previously burned, if it had not been used in a while.

Use a screen around stoves or space heaters that have open flames. Give the heater adequate clearance from walls and combustibles, such as clothes rack, curtains, beds or other furniture.

If you use an electric heater, be sure your home

wiring is adequate. Avoid overloading the circuit. Avoid overloading extension cords.

Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, and certainly, do not touch one when you are wet.

When refueling an oil unit, avoid overfilling it. If cool oil is used, it will expand as it warms up inside your home and may cause burner flooding; this could cause flare-ups. And don't fill your heater while it is burning.

Keep young children away from space heaters, particularly when they are wearing nightgowns, which can be sucked in by the draft created by the heater, and ignited.

If you are using an approved UL space heater or heating stove in your bedroom, turn off your heater or turn it low before going to bed. When using a fuel-burning heater in the bedroom, open the window. Ventilation prevents suffocation that can be caused by a heater sucking oxygen.

Use only safety-listed equipment. If you use an oil heater, look for the UL label; a gas appliance, the AGA or UL label; or an electric heater, the UL label.

When temperatures inside are kept down, a crackling fire in the fireplace is a cozy and cheery way to keep warm. But these fires, if not carefully attended, could cause tragedy. To use them safely:

Do not use flammable liquids to start the fire. Keep a metal screen

in front of your fireplace. Flying embers can start fires.

Don't use excessive amounts of fire to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite soot in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.

Never burn charcoal in your fireplace, or in a charcoal broiler or hibachi unit inside. Burning charcoal gives off deadly amounts of carbon monoxide.

Be sure no flammable materials hang down from or decorate your mantle. A spark from your fireplace hitting them could ignite these materials and cause a fire.

When you go to bed, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in your fireplace. A closed damper can cause hot ashes to build up heat to the point that a fire can flare up and ignite the room while you are asleep.

Follow the directions on the package if you use manmade logs. Never break a manmade log apart to quicken a fire.

It's important to have your furnace checked out and cleaned regularly, so it is in good working condition. Furnace safety tips need to be observed all year round.

Some things you should know:

Be sure all furnace automatic controls and emergency shutoffs are in good condition.

Leave furnace work to experts. Don't attempt repairs unless you are qualified.

Have your repairman check the wall and ceiling near the furnace and flue. If they are hot, additional insulation or clearance may be needed.

Check the flue pipes. Are they well supported? Free of holes and clean?

Is the chimney solid? No cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry. Are they?

Keep trash and combustible storage away from the heating system.

Don't store hot ashes in the home; take them outside immediately.

Tips for kitchen safety:

Never use a gas range or an open oven to heat your kitchen. Any invented fuel burning appliance is capable of producing deadly levels of carbon monoxide.

Don't leave lit oven door open. Children could burn themselves on the heating elements.

Some miscellaneous tips: Frozen pipes? Don't

try to thaw them with a blowtorch or other open flame. Use hot water or a UL labeled device for thawing, otherwise, a fire could be the result.

If windows are emergency exits in your home, train your family to use them in case a fire should strike. And see that

storm windows open easily.

As an added safety feature, install a smoke-sensitive home fire alarm, available in retail stores for about \$30-\$50.

Contact the fire department for advice if you have a question on home fire safety at 342-0182.

Merry Christmas

THE SOLDIERS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Major Bruce W. Lovely

Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
I knew I had found the home of a soldier,
once I could see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed
open the door.
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,
I soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men who were
willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate on a bright
Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
And I covered this Soldier
from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered
on back.

And although it barely fit me,
I began to swell with pride,
And for a shining moment,
I was United States Army deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered
with a voice so clean and pure,
"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend,
and to all a good night!

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jessijhowe@gmail.com

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Gretchen Avera	Benjamin Britton	Baylee Smith
Larry Blake	Alexandra Brookins	Marley Restreppo
Janis Courson	Katherine Brookins	Elias Vargas
Melanie Mays	Olivia Brookins	Lea Vargas
Colleen McClure	Courson Brookins	Marta Vargas
Angie Perry	Kaya Dungey	Tovya Vargas
Lisa Reasoner	Lily Kates	Caleb Vaughn

December 16, 17, 18 Call the Monticello Opera House 997-4242 for reservations or go online
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For more information call Lester Lawrence 850-997-4626

Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16
Monticello Jamboree begins at 7 p.m. every Friday evening at 625 South Water Street, just three blocks north of the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49. For questions or concerns contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049. There are doorprizes, cold soft drinks and snacks.

DECEMBER 16-18
The holiday season continues at the Opera House Fridays through Sundays, December 16-18, with Monticello Acting & Dance Co's production of The Christmas Spectacular! Join in with the carol sing, or sit back and watch the dancers and fun skits. You'll get chills listening to the beautiful harmonies provided in this musical review. It's a perfect holiday event for every member of the family! Call 850-997-4242 or www.monticellooperahouse.org for reservations and ticket information.

DECEMBER 17
Martin Luther King Center will host its first Christmas Educational Drive on Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. at the facility located at 1420 First Street. The event is for JES students Pre-K through third grade. Each student will receive an educational packet and other goodies. Door prizes will be awarded to a few lucky participants. For more information and directions contact Steve Hall at 850-241-3208.

DECEMBER 17
Residents Christmas Party and Dinner at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Cross Landings Health & Rehabilitation Center facility on North Jefferson. This annual event is open to the community including family, friends and volunteers. Plan to attend; the residents will enjoy your visit. Wrapped gifts will be appreciated, but are not a must. Your attendance is the best gift you can give to the residents. Music performed by the St. Rilla Youth Choir; Welcome from Administrator Paul Kovary; Prayer and blessing by Rev. Jimmy Brookins; and of course Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all. If you plan to attend, contact Social Services Director Mae Kyler at 850-997-2313 to reserve a place now.

DECEMBER 17
Road CRU Car Club meets at 5 p.m. every third Saturday on North Cherry Street in front of the Rare Door restaurant. There is a 50/50 drawing and lots of door prizes. Everyone is welcome to join the activities and see some awesome cars. Contact Ray Foskey at 850-997-0607 for more information.

DECEMBER 17
Dixie Community Center in historical Dixie, GA is open on the first and third Saturday nights for an evening of music and dancing with live local bands. Free line dance classes begin at 5:30 p.m. with the fun to follow at 7 p.m. For more information contact Kenneth Price at 1-229-263-7231.

DECEMBER 19
The Palmer Place book club will meet on Monday at Palmer Place for a 'white elephant' gift ex-

change. The group will share favorite book titles instead of reading a book this month. The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 9; the book will be 'The Widower's Tale' by Julia Glass. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. For questions call Abi Vandervest at 850-997-4607 or email to douwah-nadance@yahoo.com

DECEMBER 19
MainStreet of Monticello, Florida Board Meeting is held at 5 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Cherry Street Commons on South Cherry Street. Contact Margie Stern at 850-445-1390 for more information. For more information about the third Monday Main Street Speaker Series contact Anne Holt at 850-997-5110 or aholt@aholt.com Come to hear about updates and projects that MainStreet has been working on.

DECEMBER 19
Magnolia Garden Circle meets at 12 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. For more details and information about upcoming meetings contact Chairman Chantel Romaine at 850-997-6716.

DECEMBER 19
Al-Anon meetings are held at 8 p.m. every Monday at the Anglican Church, 124 Jefferson Avenue in Thomasville, GA. For information go to www.al-anon.ala-teen.org

DECEMBER 19
AA women's meetings are held on Mondays at 6:45 p.m.; AA meetings follow at 8 p.m., at the Christ Episcopal Church Annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information, call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

DECEMBER 20
AA classes are held every Tuesday at 8 p.m. for those seeking help. The classes are held at the Harvest Christian Center, 1599 Springholow Road. Contact Marvin Graham, pastor, at 850-212-7669 for more information.

DECEMBER 20
Jefferson County Humane Society Board of Directors meeting is held 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday at Wag The Dog Too. For more information visit www.jchs.us or contact Teresa Kessler, secretary, at teresa@kessler-

constructionllc.com Monetary support may be posted to: P.O. Box 954, Monticello, FL 32345.

DECEMBER 20
Jefferson County Republican Party will meet at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday at Willow Pond Farm. Contact Clyde Simpson at chairman@jeffersonsongop.com or 850-228-4400 for more information and to make reservations. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. at a cost of \$10 per person, with the net proceeds going to the REC.

DECEMBER 20
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOP) meets 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (September through May) at the First United Methodist Church. This program is geared toward early pregnancy to kindergarten mothers; will offer a light breakfast, a speaker and a Christian-based program; There will also be creative activities just for moms. A childcare center is needed to sit and play with the children. Contact Heather Boyd at 850-997-1041 for more information.

DECEMBER 21
Monticello Kiwanis Club meets every Wednesday at noon at the Jefferson Country Club on the Boston Highway for lunch, a program and a meeting. Contact President Rob Beshears at 850-997-5054 for more information.

DECEMBER 22
You may qualify for assistance through the Capital Area Community Weatherization Assistance Program. The program reduces heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of the home. Contact Nellie Thomas at 850-997-5605 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth Thursday for an appointment in the Dills Community area, at the Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Contact Pat Hall or Melissa Watson at 850-997-8231 for additional information, and other services currently being offered. This is free to the client.

DECEMBER 22
AA meetings are held weekly at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Christ

Episcopal Church annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

DECEMBER 26
Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group is held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at First United Methodist Church in the Family Ministry Center on West Walnut Street in Monticello. A light lunch will be served. This is a free monthly program. Call the Alzheimer's Project at 850-386-2778 for more information or 850-997-5545 for directions.

DECEMBER 26
Martin Luther King Community Center meets 6 p.m. on the last Monday of each month at the MLK Center. Contact Charles Parrish at 850-997-3760 for more information.

JANUARY 14
Monticello Red Hat Scarlett O'Hatters meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday for lunch and a good time at a location of their choice. Contact Althea Fuller at 850-342-1011 for more information.

JANUARY 8
Camellia Garden Circle meets on the second Sunday at 2 p.m. Participants are asked to bring goodies to share. For more information contact Chairman Jane Davis at 850-997-4320 or jkdeercrossing@aol.com

JANUARY 9
Big Bend Horseman's

Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday at Green Industries Institute for a brief program and meeting. This is an open horse club for all breeds. Everyone is welcome. Go to www.bigbendhorse.com for more information.

JANUARY 24
Triple L Club (LLL) will meet for a program and luncheon at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday at First Baptist Church Monticello. A program, potluck luncheon and good Christian fellowship will be provided. Contact President Ethel Strickland at 850-509-9445 for more information.

JANUARY 10
American Legion Post 49 meets at 6:30 p.m. on

the second Tuesday of each month for a business meeting and program at the Otto Walker Post on South Water Street. Contact Adjutant Ron Slik at 850-997-8103 for more information.

JANUARY 1
VFW Post 251 meets 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Learning Center on Marvin Street for a meeting. Contact Commander Ned Hill at 850-339-5524 for more information.

JANUARY 2
VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 251 meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Memorial MB Church. Contact President Mary Madison at 850-210-7090 for more information.

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Wednesday:
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Luke 2:8-11
And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. (9) An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. (10) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Come and worship with us! (John 4:24)

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Jefferson County Living

MVFD BOSTON BUTTS FUNDRAISER

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Monticello volunteer Fire Department is presently holding a Boston butts fundraiser to raise funds for additional fire equipment at the station.

Chief Lester Lawrence advised that

the smoked butts are \$25 and the deadline to order is December 18.

The smoked Boston butts will be ready for pickup December 23 from 3:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the fire station on North Jefferson Street.

Call Chief Lawrence to order at 850-997-4626. In other department

news, Chief Lawrence advised that the Cape Canaveral Fire Department recently donated a fire truck to the department. "It's a 1978, in excellent condition. It has an enclosed cab and can haul five firefighters. The water tank has a 1,000-gallon capacity, which is better than our present truck. Also, the present truck is having problems with the water pump and the company that made the water pumps went out of business in the 90's, so we would not be able to replace the pump. We would have to replace the truck.

He also advised that the department has a federal grant out to try and acquire a new fire truck.



Today Is The Deadline For 'Dear Santa' Letters!



Santa's making a list and he's checking it twice. It's that time of year to show Santa who the good girls and boys have been and for them to write letters to Santa Claus.

ECB Publishing, Inc. can save children the cost of postage to send letters to the North Pole. Children can instead

and check what each child wants.

The deadline for entries is today, Dec. 16 and they will be published in the Dec. 23 Jefferson County Journal. Letters must be written in black ink to Santa in care of Monticello News, P.O. Box 428, Monticello, FL 32345 or dropped off at the Monticello News office, located at 180 W. Washington St., in Monticello.

DR. KELVIN NORTON APPOINTED TO ASSOCIATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT BETHUNE COOKMAN UNIVERSITY DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

What an awesome honor it is to become an Associate Board of Trustee member at such a great institution of higher learning under the leadership of President Trudie Kibbe. This is exactly what happens to Dr. Kelvin Norton, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning for Jefferson County School District. Dr. Norton is a 1987 graduate of Bethune Cookman University (formerly Bethune-Cookman College) in Daytona Beach, Florida. He is a member of the Big Bend Alumni Association through which he has been a huge contributor to the school.

Bethune Cookman celebrated its homecoming on November 5, 2011 against Morgan State and won the game with a final score of 49 - 23. B-CU National Alumni planned many events to celebrate Homecoming, including reunions for class of 1969, 1981, 1991, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity of which Dr. Norton is an active member and was recognized for his leadership and humanitarian efforts over the past twenty-five years. National Alumni President Ray Brinson said, "Homecoming is our richest and most anticipated annual tradition." We look forward to welcoming back home the sons and daughters of Dr. Bethune and their families. Homecoming 2011 was one of our best years ever! During the half time events, Dr. Norton was presented with a plaque appointing him as a member of the Associate Trustee Board of Trustees of the Great Bethune Cookman University. This recognition exemplifies Dr. Norton's professional attributes in the field of education and the University's commitment to excellence for its faculty, staff and student body.

This year, US News & World Report has named Bethune Cookman University (B-CU) one of the "Best Baccalau-



reate Colleges in the Southern Region" and one of the "Top Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) nationwide," according to rankings published in the 2012 edition of the US News & World Report America's Best Colleges.

In the category of "Best Baccalaureate Colleges Southern Region", B-CU was ranked #52, which places our university in the top tier of schools - those ranked from 1 to 74 out of the 99 baccalaureates granting Institutions surveyed. Institutions in this category are rated with a focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of programs in both liberal arts and professional fields.

Lastly, B-CU was ranked in the top tier of HBCU's based on a specialized HBCU peer survey combined with statistical data to include graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. I might add that to be considered for this ranking, the HBCU had to fall numerically between 1 - 35 out of 90.

KUDOS to Dr. Kelvin Norton and "The Great Bethune Cookman University" for a job well done!!!

Respectfully submitted, Ms. Linda Butler, Class of 1973

Identity Theft Awareness

A SPECIAL FROM KRISTIN JACKSON
Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Services

Just in time for the holidays, identity theft sounds like a unique holiday time topic, but unfortunately the holidays are a time that consumers may be more at risk. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 'Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number or credit card number without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.' Some reports estimate as many as one in every 10 U.S. consumers have been a victim of identity theft (Javelin Strategy and Research, 2009.)

One of the main ways consumers can help fight identity theft is through awareness. Javelin Strategy and Research found that the top three ways individuals' identity was stolen was through new account fraud (opening up a credit or store brand

card,) stolen wallets or physical paperwork and stolen debit or credit card numbers. There are some simple things that you can do to protect yourself... *Make sure that you do not leave your wallet/purse unattended in a public place or in sight in your vehicle. *Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet/purse. *Take Social Security cards with you only when you know you will need to use them. *Report lost or stolen credit card information to the card issuer or to the police (in the event of a theft) immediately. *Monitor your credit report. You can get a free copy of your credit report every four months or anytime you are denied credit from www.annualcreditreport.com This is the only site endorsed by the Federal Trade Commission. *If you are a victim



Kristin Jackson

of identity theft, you should file an identity theft complaint with the FTC at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov You will also need to file a police report.

For more information on identity theft or any other financial topics, contact me at 850-342-0187 or friend us on Facebook at http://on.fb.me/rbaVT6

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MOVIE TIMES
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Chipwrecked** (PG)
Friday-5:10-7:25-9:55
Sat-Thurs-12:50-3:00-5:10-7:25-9:35
NO PASSES

Sherlock Holmes 2 (PG)
Friday-4:10-7:10-9:55
Sat-Thurs-1:15-4:10-7:10-9:55
NO PASSES

New Years Eve (PG13)
Friday-4:15-7:20-10:05
Sat-Thurs-1:00-4:15-7:20-10:05

Hugo (PG13)
Friday-4:00-7:00-9:45
Sat-Thurs-1:05-4:00-7:00-9:45
NO PASSES

Arthur Christmas (PG)
Friday-4:05-7:05-9:25
Sat-Thurs-1:30-4:05-7:05-9:25

Breaking dawn (PG13)
Friday-5:00-7:30-10:00
Sat-Thurs-12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00

Jack & Jill (PG13)
Friday-5:30-7:40-9:55
Sat-Thurs-1:10-3:20-5:30-7:40-9:55

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Jefferson County Living

Remembering The Good Ol' Days

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Many times the older people in different communities throughout the country will reminisce about the days gone by and what life was like back in the "good ol' days." County resident, Ed Vollertsen, 73, recently reminisced about his earlier days of living in Jefferson County.

"You can't really call my interview remembering the good ol' days," said Vollertsen. "I'm a transplant and have only been here since 1993, but I can tell you what I remember Monticello was like then.

"There were a lot more businesses here then than there are now," he recalled. "There were two hardware stores, Edenfield's and a hardware and gun shop. Jackson's was here, as was the Courtyard restaurant, we always ate there a good bit. Milady's was in business then, but we have

lost all of those businesses now. The Downtown owned by Davis Revell was open then. Several businesses have gone by the wayside. There has been a lot of controversy lately about bringing new businesses into Monticello.

"The County Tax Collectors office and the Property Appraiser's office were in the area that the Brickhouse is now," he added. "We need to do something to build Monticello back up again and bring more business into town. It's a sad thing that hurts our community. The fact that there are so few businesses here now and there are no jobs.

"The churches are getting smaller. With there being no jobs, everyone is leaving and moving out of Monticello. It hurts the county and the community.

"Where O'Reilly's is there was a Big "B". Movie Gallery was in the same center, but it's also gone now. We had Bill King Mobile Home sales, Luther Davis Auto Sales,

There used to be a filling station, where the Keys brothers also sold cars, where Monticello Hairlines is now. There was a sandwich shop out where the Sage is now, but they have since moved to the coast.

"Just in the past few years we have lost Tammie's Sweets and Deli, Poppa's Dog House, which was once Thor's service station and Star Ducks," said Vollertsen.

"Mayor Ike Anderson rode his bicycle for transportation and he had a hand-painted sign in his front yard stating Ike Anderson Attorney At Law.

"There was a sporting goods and outdoors shop where Wag The Dog is now. The present location of the Monticello News used to be Plantation Tire then it became Sorensen's Tire and then Sorensen's moved to North Jefferson Street. There was a restaurant in the News building, then it became a Greek restaurant, then someone else opened a restau-



restaurant where they sold India Indian food. I wish they would tear that old building down. It looks terrible. The bus barn was on Water Street but it's a paint and body shop now.

"At the state line where the welcome station used to be was Sunnyside package store. I just wish we could bring more business here so the young people who want to stay in the county can work here. I don't understand why we're not getting more businesses here. The county used to be a thriving and self-reliant community. They keep telling us to support local businesses, but here lately, there are no local businesses to support any more, really.

It's no wonder why people like to sit and remember the "Good Ol' Days!"

rant there, then it became the Monticello News," he recalled.

"The library used to be on Cherry Street and the School Board turned the old Jefferson County High School library building over to the County for use as a library.

"Dunn's Furniture is gone. The Emergency Management office used to be in that building, as well as the Veteran's Affairs office. The funeral

home on Railroad Street used to be an arcade for the kids, then it was changed over to David Collins' Cherry Street Gym, where he taught the kids boxing," Vollertsen recalled.

"Going out to the east there wasn't much of anything. To the west, there was the Brahman

Food Policy Determines Our Destiny

If you know of an important solution that could save millions of lives and the world, would you choose to keep quiet or to help to put out the fire?

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cantly alleviate each of the issues above and reset things back to the right track. Now is the time to do it.

The 2012 Farm Bill does not only impact to the future of United States, it also affects the welfare of people all over the world. Tell Congress to start subsidies for Organic Plant Farming. By helping farmers transition and succeed in Organic Plant Farming, United States will build a solid foundation for sustainable agriculture. It is a win win policy for the government, farmers, taxpayers, con-

sumers and the world. This new food policy will determine our destiny.

A good practice goes a long way beyond staying with the law. We urge you to help American recognize the cruel truth about the meat culture. A shift to plant-based Organic Agriculture is the quickest way to restore the health of each American and the health of our Planet. For the continual survival of the human race, food choice is no longer a personal preference.

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School & Education



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photos By Fran Hunt Nov. 23, 2011.

Our Blessings ELC

Our Blessings Learning Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 23 at the playground of the facility on E. Palmer Mill Road in downtown Monticello, for the renovations received through a grant which included new equipment for the children. The morning event brought many in the community out to meet and greet the staff and volunteers. Tomica Jackson presented holiday food baskets to two local families in need.



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School & Education

4H County Wide Public Speaking



Carson Leigh Olson was first place winner for 'Snowy DC'.



Abby Reams was second place winner for 'Living With Cystic Fibrosis'.



Abigail Hildreth was third place winner for 'My New Neighbors'.



Carley Ondash was fourth place winner for 'New School'.



Grace Beshears received a medallion and certificate for 'MY #1 Dad'.



Audrey Ragin received a medallion and certificate for 'Child Abuse'.



Abigail Boyd received a medallion and certificate for 'Life Backstage'.



Jakayla Meeks received a medallion and certificate for 'How To Reach Your Goals'.



Camryn Grant was first place winner for 'All About Walt Disney'.



Timothy Finlayson was second place winner for 'Florida Gator Heisman Trophy Winners'.



Naya Thompson was third place winner for 'Peer Pressure'.



Samya Howard was fourth place winner for 'My Teddy Bear'.

Jefferson County students participated in the 4H County Wide Tropicana Public Speaking Contest on Thursday, December 8. These 15 students went from the Classroom Division to the School Division and advanced on to the County Wide Contest. First place winners received a plaque, trophy and a certificate. Second place winners received a plaque and a certificate. Third place winners received a plaque and a certificate. Fourth place winners received a plaque and a certificate.

In the 4th and 5th Grade Division first place went to Carson Leigh Olson, 'Snowy DC'; second place Abby Reams, 'Living With Cystic Fibrosis'; third place Abigail Hildreth, 'My New Neighbors'; and fourth place Carley Ondash, 'New School'.

Medallions and certificates were given to Mickayla Courson, 'Before The Reality Comes The Dream'; Grace Beshears, 'MY #1 Dad'; Audrey Ragin, 'Child Abuse'; Abigail Boyd, 'Life Backstage'; and Jakayla Meeks, 'How To Reach Your Goals'.

In the 6th Grade Division first place went to Camryn Grant, 'All About Walt Disney'; second place Timothy Finlayson, 'Florida Gator Heisman Trophy Winners'; third place Naya Thompson, 'Peer Pressure'; and fourth place Samya Howard, 'My Teddy Bear'.

Medallions and certificates were given to Heather Crego, 'Life Changing School' and Haley Jones, 'Texas'.

Carson Leigh Olson and Camryn Grant will represent Jefferson County at the District Tropicana Public Speaking Contest on May 10, 2012 at the Leon County Extension Office.

"Jefferson County 4H and I would like to thank our emcee Allison Cone, who did a phenomenal job making the program run smoothly and to all the teachers and parents who made the contests possible. A special thanks to our judges Betsy Barfield, Angela Gray and Damon Miller. Also, we would like to thank the staff at the Jefferson Elementary School for the use of the Media Center," concludes John G. Lilly Sr., 4H County Extension Director.

Jefferson County 4H is the place where there's fun in learning and learning in fun!



Heather Crego received a medallion and certificate for 'Life Changing School'.



Haley Jones received a medallion and certificate for 'Texas'.



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Automotive Key Found on Hwy. 90 & Water St. Nov. 23. Call 997-3568 or come by the Monticello News Office

CLUSTER OF KEYS found on bench in front of 245 W. Washington St. Call 997-3568.

LOST

3 YEAR OLD MALE GOLDEN RETRIEVER. Answers to the name of "Cutter" Lost on Highway 90 around the Main Avenue area. Blue Collar with no I.D. tags. Please call 850-212-6630 or 850-545-0666 if you have any information. 12/14,16

LOST LOST NOV. 3 IN THE AREA OF B&B FARMS ON ALMA RD OR LAKE ROAD AREA, MONTICELLO MED. SIZE DOG, Brown with a black nose and black tongue and has black accents around her eyes. Approx. 40 lbs. and wearing a Polk County rabies tag on choker chain. If found please call 863-644-6545 or 863-409-8077



Help Wanted

DIRECTOR OF ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS (RN) wanted at North Florida Community College. See Hyperlink "http://www.nfcc.edu for details. 12/14-23, c.

APARTMENT MANAGER - PT. 15 hrs/wk HERITAGE MANOR, Monticello, FL jobs@flynmanagement.com or fax: (727) 447-5516 12/14-30, c.

OAA COORDINATOR POSITION: Requires highly organized individual with proficient computer skills, ability to multi-task, and excellent people skills. Background check required. \$9.00 per hour. Send resume to Jefferson Senior Center, 1155 N. Jefferson St. Monticello, FL. 12/14, 16, c.

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Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR RE-ZONING

The City Council of the City of Monticello proposes to adopt the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-02

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY BORDERED BY SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET ON THE WEST AND EAST CHEROKEE AVENUE ON THE SOUTH AND JACKSON STREET ON THE EAST, COMPRISING 1.15 ACRES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA FROM MIXED USE B/R-BUSINESS/RESIDENTIAL TO B-2 BUSINESS HIGHWAY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The area shown covered by the proposed ordinance is shown in the map below:



The entire text of the ordinance may be inspected at City Hall, 245 S. Mulberry Street, Monticello, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Public hearing on the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Monticello City Hall. Interested persons may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

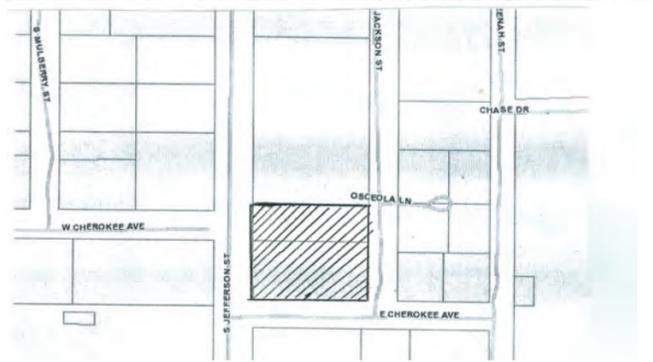
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION TO AMEND THE CITY OF MONTICELLO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The City of Monticello proposes to adopt the following amendment to its future land use map by Ordinance 2012-01:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA, BY REDESIGNATING A PARCEL OF LAND, BORDERED BY SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET ON THE WEST, EAST CHEROKEE AVENUE ON THE SOUTH, AND JACKSON STREET ON THE EAST, COMPRISING 1.15 ACRES, FROM MIXED USE B/R-BUSINESS/RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF THE SPECIFIED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF MONTICELLO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR LEGAL EFFECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance will change the City of Monticello Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designation for Parcel No. 00-00-00-0310-0002-0270 and a portion of Parcel No. 00-00-00-0310-0002-0110 from Business/Residential to Commercial.

The public hearing will be held on January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Monticello City Hall, 245 S. Mulberry Street, Monticello, FL 32344. Interested persons may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the application. The application may be inspected at City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CHASE MANHATTAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

CASE NO.: 33-2010-CA-000086

vs. DIVISION:

WILLIAM COLE ROBBINS, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated December 6, 2011 and entered in Case NO. 33-2010-CA-000086 of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for JEFFERSON County, Florida wherein CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CHASE MANHATTAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, is the Plaintiff and WILLIAM COLE ROBBINS; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WILLIAM COLE ROBBINS; N/K/A MALISSA ROBBINS; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at NORTH DOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE LOBBY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, MONTICELLO, FLORIDA at 11:00AM, on the 5th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, BEING A PORTION OF SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT 10 FEET EAST AND 60 FEET NORTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 4, OF JEFFERSON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION TO THE TOWN OF MONTICELLO, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK B, PAGE 6; WHICH POINT IS THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE J. H. WILLIAMS HOMESTEAD; THENCE RUNNING EAST ALONG THE NORTH BORDER OF SEMINOLE AVENUE AND ACROSS A GRADED FORTY FOOT STREET A DISTANCE OF 40 FEET; THENCE RUNNING NORTH ALONG THE EAST BORDER OF SAID 40 FOOT GRADED STREET A DISTANCE OF 280 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LANDS HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE RUN EAST 130 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 345 FEET, MORE OR LESS, AND TO A FENCE LINE BETWEEN THE PROPERTY OF ELLA LONG DEAN AND J. G. ANDERSON, THENCE WEST ALONG SAID FENCE LINE 130 FEET THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST BORDER OF SAID 40 FOOT GRADED STREET 345 FEET AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LANDS HEREIN DESCRIBED.

A/K/A 900 S MULBERRY STREET, MONTICELLO, FL 32344

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on December 13, 2011.

Kirk B. Reams
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Sherry Sears
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact:

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12/16,23/11, c.

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How to use: the major and minor feeding times for each day are listed below. The major feeding times are the best for the sportsman and last about 2 hours, the minor feeding times can also have good success, but last only about 1 hour.

*The Week of December 16, 2011 through December 23, 2011
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)*

Friday, December 16 *3:45 AM 9:55 AM *4:10 PM 10:30 PM	Saturday, December 17 *4:40 AM 10:50 AM *5:10 PM 11:20 PM	Sunday, December 18 *5:30 AM 11:40 AM *6:00 PM	Monday, December 19 12:10 AM *6:20 AM 12:30 PM *6:45 PM
Tuesday, December 20 1:00 AM *7:10 AM 1:20 PM *7:30 PM	Wednesday, December 21 1:50 AM *7:55 AM 2:10 PM *8:30 PM	Thursday, December 22 2:40 AM *8:50 AM 3:10 PM *9:20 PM	Friday, December 23 3:30 AM *9:50 AM 4:10 PM *10:20 PM

Harper Hanway Receives Award

Harper Hanway, Associate Forester at Southern Forestry Consultant's Monticello office, recently received the Florida Society of American Forester's Young Forester of the Year Award at the Society's Fall Symposium in Gainesville, Florida. The award is given annually to a member of S.A.F.'s Florida Society who is 35 years old or younger and has exhibited outstanding leadership and service to the profession of forestry.

Harper is a native of Tallahassee, and received his Bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Montana. While in the West, he worked

for the Idaho Department of Lands and also worked with the Pacific Yew Extraction Program. Upon returning to Florida in 2003, Harper worked for the Florida Division of Forestry in their state-wide forest inventory program and also in land management at Tate's Hell State Forest in Carrabelle. He has been with SFC in their Monticello office since 2005.

Since joining SFC, Harper has become a Candidate Member in the Association of Consulting Foresters and has become a member of the Steering Committee of the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council, as well as a Certified

Burner in both Florida and Georgia. He is the current Chair-elect of the Big Bend Chapter of the Florida S.A.F., and is wrapping up a two year term as the Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer. He has taken a leadership role in the Chapter's service project at the Barksdale Foundation Farm for special needs children in Madison County, Florida.

Harper and his wife, Erica, enjoy all things outdoors, especially hiking and fishing. They reside in rural Jefferson County with their two Labrador retrievers, and where they attend First United Methodist Church.



BOY BAGS BIG BUCK



FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing Staff Writer

Many people consider the number 13 to be a very unlucky number, but not a 14-year old boy from Jefferson County, he would swear that 13 is the luckiest number there is when it comes to hunting deer.

In 2010, on the family property, which butts up to the Dixie Plantation, Robert Alan Counts had gone hunting on November 13 at 8 a.m. and killed his very first buck, a small eight-pointer. Proud of his kill, Robert had the rack

mounted.

"Last year when he killed that eight-pointer, was his first year of getting serious about hunting," said his dad, WG Counts, Jr. "It was the first year we were able to pry him away from the video games and TV and get him interested in the outdoors.

"He had only been out there about five minutes and shortly after he put out some scent bait, he got his first buck."

This year Robert built himself a small tree stand and had rigged it about eight to

ten feet off the ground. On November 13, Robert went out to his stand and shortly afterward, at 7 a.m., (almost to the hour and exactly one year to the day that he killed his first buck), Robert observed two does wander into his vision where he put out some of the scent bait. Not long afterward a huge 12-point buck charged the does and Robert got his shot, bringing the approximately 180-pound buck to the ground.

"The buck's rack scored high enough for the record book," said

WG. "FWC scored him at 135 5/8 and netted him a 123 2/8 and scored him as a 10-point buck because two horns were straight like antelope horns

"Robert has already had four lifetime hunters tell him that he killed the buck of a lifetime," WG continued. "He is in the running for the Youth Buck of the year in Woods and Water." The winner will be announced some time next year.

"He's on cloud nine and ready to write a book now," said WG. "Now all I have to worry about is paying a taxidermist. Robert has already picked out the spot on the wall where the head will hang and made us move stuff out of the way.

WG says the family has been enjoying some venison meals and sharing the meat with friends and family members.

One needn't wonder

where Robert will be next year on November 13 at approximately 7-8 a.m. He will be in that tree stand with his rifle and scent bait in hand. "He swears by that stuff," WG said of Robert and the scent bait usage.

WG added that Robert learned his hunting skills from family friends including Paul and Ann Kennedy of Aucilla, Jeff Martin, Carl

Wooten and Jack Miller. "They taught him all about hunting because every year when I go out I get skunked," said WG. "The only way I can kill a deer is with a car or truck," he quipped.

Robert is the son of Patricia and WG Counts, Jr. He is a ninth grader at Florida High and plays the saxophone in the symphony band. Robert is also a fifth generation Floridian.

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Holiday Celebrations Minus Balloon Releases Best For Florida Wildlife

As people gather together for occasions that make the holidays bright, remember that releasing balloons may be harmful to wildlife.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wants event and meeting organizers and other Floridians to be aware of a law prohibiting the release of more than nine lighter-than-air balloons within a 24-hour period.

Instead of releasing balloons this holiday season, the FWC suggests groups use more environmentally friendly ways to celebrate events such as New Year's Eve and football bowl games. The release into the atmosphere of

large numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals. Balloons released in Florida almost inevitably end up in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean or other water bodies. Wildlife, especially sea turtles, mistake balloons for food, and strings attached to balloons can entangle birds and other animals.

There are exceptions for balloons released indoors, scientific or meteorological balloons released by a government agency or under government contract, or hot air balloons recovered after launching.

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