

City Approves Subdivision Plat Some Six Years After The Fact

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The Monticello City Council last week conditionally approved the final plat on a subdivision that has been on the books since the mid 2000s.

The Bide-a-Wee subdivision, located on the easternmost side of the city between Pearl and Washington streets, currently consists of eight vacant lots.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, the council approved the subdivision's plat, conditional on city and Farmers & Merchants Bank (FMB) staff working out an agreement on how the costs will be handled for a sanitary sewer line that must be constructed to serve the subdivision.

Engineer Alan Wise, of Preble-Rish Inc., placed the cost of the sanitary line construction at about \$35,000, once the mobilization, erosion control and other associated costs were factored into the project.

One possibility discussed Tuesday evening was that of FMB paying for the line's construction and recouping its costs subsequently from the tap-in fees that the subdivision's residents must pay when they connect to the line.

FMB gained acquisition to the property through foreclosure proceeding. The bank now wants to move forward with the development, which apparently was stalled by the 2007 recession.

A Monticello News article from February 2006 speaks of a groundbreaking ceremony held on the site at the time. The ceremony was attended by the then owner/developer, representatives of the chamber and various other community leaders.

At the time, the development consisted of 11 lots, three of which were in the process of having houses constructed on them.

The model of structures to be constructed in the subdivision was supposed to be of the bungalow/cottage architectural style, starting at \$229,900.

"Bide-a-Wee" means "Stay a While".

School Board Adopts Plan-A, Same As County Commission

LAZARO ALEMAN
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Senior Staff Writer

On Monday evening, Dec. 9, the Jefferson County School Board voted to adopt the redistricted Map-A, the same as the Jefferson County Commission adopted a week earlier.

The vote to adopt Map-A was 3-2, with School Board members Charles Boland, Phil Barker and Larry Halsey voting yes and members Sandra Saunders and Shirley Washington voting no.

This time there wasn't much discussion of the issue, with the exception of

Washington, who wanted assurance from counsel that the legal description accompanying the map wouldn't subsequently be changed by the commission.

Washington several times referenced the 2000 redistricting effort, in which she alleged that county officials had subsequently changed the legal description, absent the School Board's knowledge.

Attorney Opal McKinney-Williams several times assured Washington that the legal description and map before the School Board matched each other and neither could be changed except by a School Board action in an odd-numbered year. No

matter if the County Commission changed its map or legal description subsequently, the School Board didn't have to abide by that change, McKinney-Williams said.

That was why the two governing boards adopted separate resolutions, McKinney-Williams said. She didn't know what might have taken place in 2000, she said. But she could definitely assure the board that this particular map and its legal description absolutely matched each other, she said.

Please See SCHOOL BOARD Page 3

Practicing A Rich And Sweet Country Tradition



County residents Max Bilinski and Joe Norton cook a batch of cane juice to make homemade syrup, a once fairly common practice in Jefferson County during the fall season. Photo courtesy of Catherine Ponson.

Small Business Program Offering Free Seminars

Beginning on noon Monday, Dec. 16, the Small Business Development Program (SBDP) will hold a series of free business "empowerment lunches" at the courthouse annex on Water Street. These "brown bag" (bring your own) lunches will focus on motivational and professional development topics. The hour-long sessions will include presenter remarks plus inspirational and informative CDs from widely known leaders and experts.

The SBDP also is soliciting input from area businesses and entrepreneurs on training needs for upcoming programs. To offer input, visit www.Jefferson-MeansBusiness.com, click on the "Trainings" tab, and complete the online survey. A separate survey under the "Feedback" tab is also available for those seeking other business support services.

The SBDP offers support services to businesses that want to expand in size, scope or reach, as well as to individuals who want to start their own enterprises. The offerings include business planning, evaluations, marketing insights and training sessions.

For more information, contact the SBDP by email at smallbusiness@jeffersoncountyfl.gov or by phone at 997-2185.

County Will Seek Outside Counsel On Issue Of Malloy Road Landing

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The Malloy Road Landing/Brumbley Landing issue took another twist at the most recent meeting of the Jefferson County Commission.

Based on the advice of Attorneys Scott Shirley and Buck Bird, the board voted on Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, to seek outside counsel to look into the matter. The idea is to have outside counsel explore if Malloy Road Landing can legally be reopened; and if so, how?

Shirley and Bird essentially told the board that they lacked experience in the reopening of roads and advised that it was best that the board seek outside counsel that would be perceived as objective

by the public.

Bird and Shirley have come under increasing criticism from proponents of the Malloy Road Landing reopening, who accused the two attorneys of not doing enough to resolve the issue and have even implied that the two may not have a vested interest in not seeing the road re-

opened.

Further muddling the situation, the attorney for Boland Land LLC — one of three property owners at the center of controversy — has advised the board that his client was withdrawing the Brumbley Landing offer.

Boland Land LLC offered Brumbley Land-

ing as an alternative to Malloy Landing and to satisfy a condition of the Malloy Road Landing closure.

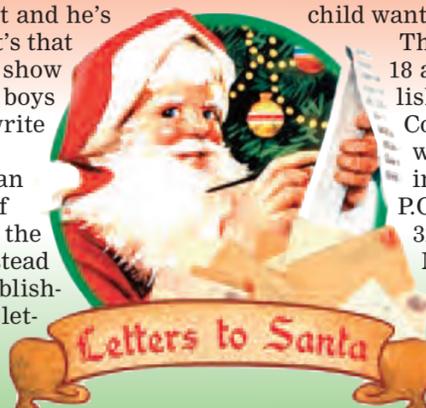
Residents familiar with the Wacissa River and with the popular Malloy Landing had earlier rejected Brumbley Landing as an un-

Please See LANDING Page 3

It's Time For 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 send their letters to ECB Publishing, which will publish the letters in the newspaper. Santa will get a copy, so he can read it and check what each



child wants. The deadline for entries is Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. and they will be published in the Dec. 25 Jefferson County Journal. Letters must be written in black ink, to Santa, in care of ECB Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 428, Monticello, FL 32345, or dropped off at the Monticello News office, 180 W. Washington St., in Monticello.

Teachers will also be collecting letters for publication, so Santa can see them.

Viewpoints

Letters 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 -

Thanks To All Who Made This Years Christmas Tour Of Homes A Success

My Christmas wish for Monticello is for more community events like the Christmas Tour of Homes on Pearl Street, Saturday, December 7. I say that as a member of the fledgling Monticello Area Historic Preservation Association, (MAHPA) a not-for-profit organization that sponsored the event. All of the individuals and organizations named below gave more than they received in a positive, caring, sharing way to make this event a success. Each deserves sincere public recognition and thanks.

The idea of a Christmas tour started early in the fall with a small group of organization members. Owners of six homes on Pearl Street, John and Mary Ann Miller, Elizabeth Robinson, Dana and Rick Anderson, Joanie and Michael Humphries, Val, Bob and Mel Dam, and Leah Jane Cooksey, agreed to take on the daunting task of decorating and opening their homes for the tour as well as dealing with family issues and the holidays. Each of the houses on the tour reflected the unique character and personalities of their families and all received positive comments for their holiday decorating inside as well as outside. A number of houses on Pearl Street that were not on the tour were also decorated in some fashion for the season. Hopefully the number will grow in the future.

The Monticello City Council allowed us to decorate the Gazebo in Jordan Park, Police Chief Mosley and some of his officers insured that "all was calm" during the event. City Clerk Emily Anderson helped with suggestions and responses to questions to insure we followed City ordinances. City Manager Steve Wingate and a number of unknown City employees made quick repairs to some sidewalks, insured existing lights worked and Jordan Park was trimmed.

Publicity is always a challenge for any activity with a limited budget.

Both Merry Ann Frisby, our local freelance writer and newspaper contributor, as well as Debbie Snapp, with the Monticello News gave lots of advice and assistance to make sure we covered print media as well as possible. The Tallahassee Democrat gave us front page coverage in the local section as well as Limelight visibility. The Monticello News provided generous coverage leading up to the event. Many downtown merchants and the Opera House posted fliers for the event, the Methodist Church allowed us space for a poster while the live Nativity was going on, Mainstreet included us in their local ads, the Chamber of Commerce included us in their weekly Eblasts, and WCTV included us on their calendar of events. Our members, in turn, encouraged those who participated in our event to visit the live Nativity as well as shop and eat downtown. We have been told by some business owners that they were extremely busy.

In addition to organization members and home owners who sold tickets to the event, Huckleberry's, the Monticello News and the Rosemary Tree sold tickets to the event for the organization. Carrie Ann and Company offered a discount on dinners, beverages and/or desserts the night of the event at the Mays House, providing an additional place for out of town visitors to eat. Mrs. Ethel Strickland and the great ladies of the Monticello Woman's Club decorated for the holidays and opened their doors that evening, giving free baked goods and hot cider to those who visited as well as having their famous holiday cakes available for purchase. The Caminez Law firm was extremely generous in support.

In the Jordan Park gazebo, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., was free musical entertainment, kicked off by the Shiloh AME church youth choir, accompanied by an amazing keyboard player, youth choir director, pastor's wife and a solo by

the pastor of the church. Ms. Idella Scott was instrumental in securing the group to perform and was present to help some of the youngsters overcome their stage fright and deliver a wonderful musical presentation. Dr. Kevin Carr and Deanna Remus followed playing holiday renditions on keyboard and cello. The music for the evening was wrapped up by Jose Sanchez, Bill Powell and vocalists with some traditional holiday music and some personal renditions....look for these guys around town.

Several individuals who are members of MAHPA also went above and beyond to make sure the event was a success by volunteering to do a lot of additional behind the scenes work. In no particular order, those individuals included Elizabeth Robinson, Donna Wiehaus, Emily Anderson and daughter Laura Anderson, Rick and Dana Anderson, Val, Bob and Mel Dam and Terri Dunn. Final thanks goes to all of the wonderful individuals who chose our event on a weekend when there were so many things to do. Attendance at the event far exceeded our modest expectations. Probably someone who needed to be included in the thank you list was left out. Please be assured it wasn't on purpose. Thanks to all of you.

Just as it takes "a village to raise a child," it takes a whole lot of positive, non-judgmental, like-minded, unselfish, community-oriented individuals to make an activity like this a success on the first try. It happened, was a pleasant experience, and will happen again. All net proceeds generated will be used to fund selected projects to directly benefit the community. Membership in our organization is free and open to all as are most of the activities during the year. Call 997-6552 to join, it's easy. Stay tuned for upcoming events!!!! Thank you everyone,

Tom Dunn
President,
Monticello Area
Historic Preservation
Association

'Brew' Ha Ha: Conversations for Coffee Amber Houston Staff Writer



Buying Christmas

Earlier this year, Nicholas and I were so excited about "buying Christmas." We finally had the income and financial security to buy big, expensive gifts for everyone.

My dad was getting a whole set of new air tools for his shop, Tallahassee Paint and Body. Nicholas was getting a huge flatscreen television for gaming. My mom was getting expensive jewelry. The list goes on and on.

And then my sister announced that she was moving out in November, and wouldn't be paying half the rent anymore. And then our faithful Volvo station wagon broke—a new motor plus labor is

going to come to \$1600. My hours got cut at work. The list goes on and on.

It went from doing slightly smaller Christmas to doing bare minimum and a whole lot of handmade gifts. I sank into despair.

But why is it that we feel the need to "buy" Christmas? Is it something that can be bought? What is Christmas?

Christmas is sitting around the piano, singing carols. It's sparing with wooden swords in shorts and turning your hot chocolate stand into a lemonade stand, because December in Florida is a joke.

It's music, and laughter, and a house

full of people. It's accidentally dropping the stuffing (I'll never live that one down) and being late to Christmas dinner because you're cleaning glass and stuffing off of the carport. It's baking *inordinate* amounts of "Christmas cookies," because *it's a tradition, dammit, and we have to*. It's eggnog and good food, and evenings of comfort and joy. It's spending time with the ones you love. It's celebrating Christ.

It's all of that and so much more, and you know what? You won't find any of that at the supermarket or department store.

So if you're strapped for cash, take heart—you can't buy Christmas anyway.



Something To Think About By Harvey Greene

Put Christ Back Into Christmas?

About this time of year we are continually regaled with people saying "Put Christ Back in Christmas!" (Well of course we hear it this time of year, it's Christmas, duh.)

What does that mean? Put the Christ back in Christmas. Does it mean we're supposed to take out the non-Christ? If you want to take out all of the non-Christ from your Christmas, that is certainly up to you, but that means doing away with the Christmas tree (Celtic and Norse tradition), the Yule log (Norse), the wreath (Druidic and Norse), the mistletoe (Norse, Celtic, and Druid), the gifts and presents (Celtic and German Norse, and tons of others), holly and garland (Norse), etc., etc. Pretty

much every tradition we have of Christmas was from some combination of the Scottish / Irish Celts or the Norse, pagan rituals dating from long before Christ's time. We simply borrowed them, and then gave a new "meaning" to it. Even the date of December 25th and Santa are a result of merging many traditions into one.

But I know what you mean when you say "Put the Christ back into Christmas", you're trying to say "Remember and celebrate the gift of Christ, and let's act like we should" or something close to it. I'm not exactly disagreeing with that thought, however I still say that "Put the Christ back into Christmas" is wrong.

Why should we put the Christ into Christmas? Why should we not be putting the Christ into every other day of the year? Trite? Maybe, but it is the exact point. Christmas and Thanksgiving are not days for us to act Christ-like so that we can ignore the other 363 days of the year. Christ told us that

our job was to love God, and to love one another.

"Love them as I have loved you." Let's say that again.

"Love them as I have love you."

He didn't say to love only two days a year? Or was it to simply Love?

He didn't say, "Well I love you, but I don't agree with what do, so I won't help you today." Or did He simply Love?

The Samaritan wasn't Jewish, but he was the example Jesus chose for us. The Samaritan was a completely different religion, but yet he loved.

Put the Christmas Back Into Christmas? I know what you mean, but I still say, "No." Put it back in us. If it is in us all the time, if the giving and the loving is there... If the unconditional, non-oppression, non-judgmental, not protesting "their" rights, unconditional, Love - the as I have loved you Love - is in us...

If that is in us all the time, you don't have to put anything back into Christmas. It will always be there. Think about it.

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Emerald Greene
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CLASSIFIED AND LEGAL ADS

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. Deadline for Legal Advertisement is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3 p.m. for Friday's paper. There will be a \$10⁰⁰ charge for Affidavits.

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From Front Page

School Board

continued from page 1

Saunders expressed confusion over what exact areas the legal description delineated, in terms of the boundary lines for the five districts, and in particular her District 2. Her concern appeared to be whether the legal description put the Jefferson Arms Apartment in District 2, as opposed to District 3, where she wanted to see it placed. However, given the School Board's apparent intent to approve Map-A — as well as the

great amount of times expended previously in fruitless arguments to convince the board otherwise — Saunders opted merely to register her disappointment with both the legal description and the selection of Map-A. The School Board's choice of Map-A, in conjunction with the Jefferson Commission's adoption of the same map on Dec. 3, effectively puts to rest a controversy that has been raging on and off

since 2011. Much of that controversy revolved about the placement of the Jefferson Arms Apartments in either District 2, where it has been since the 2000 census, or in District 3, where Saunders, Washington and others argued it should be. Map-A retains the Jefferson Arms Apartments in District 2, a minority-majority district. The Jefferson Arms is a predominantly African-American oc-

cupied low-income housing project located on the southeast outskirts of the City of Monticello. Those who argued for its placement in District 3 said it would make District 3 rightly a 50-50 district, as intended by the 1985 federal judgment that led to the creation of the district system here. The counterargument, voiced by District 3 Commissioner Hines Boyd, was that what the opponents of Map-A re-

ally wanted was a map that would skew the population numbers in favor of black candidates by shifting more black voters into the district and shifting out white voters. By law, redistricting must be done every 10 or so years following a census, particularly if the numbers show that the population has grown, diminished or shifted and the districts are not nearly equal in the number of residents as a consequence.



ROSE KLEIN
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Man Punished For Filing Suit
In Montreal, a Quebec judge has labeled a man as a "quarrelsome litigant." The label was issued when Bruno Leduc sued the Dominican Republic because it rained during his vacation. Court of Quebec Justice, Diane Quenneville stated in her ruling, "The court has no hesitation to conclude that Leduc is abusing the justice system." Over the past several years, Leduc filed 70 small claims against people or companies such as suing an airline because he claimed he hurt his leg when getting off the plane and suing Costco for \$500 because he said the staff took too long putting a lawn mower onto his cart. Since 2000, Leduc has made claims totaling \$114,000. The "quarrelsome litigant" label means Bruno Leduc can't file another lawsuit until he gets court approval beforehand.

Landing

continued from page 1

suitable alternative, saying that the waterway that it accesses is non-navigable. These residents called the Brumbley Landing unacceptable and strongly urged the commission to reject it. Which the commission did on Nov. 19, citing as a reason that Brumbley Landing failed to meet the requirements of the Jefferson County Land Development Code. In his letter to the Jefferson County Commission, the attorney for Boland Land LLC countered that Brumbley Landing indeed met the Land Development Code requirements and said that in effect Boland Land LLC had complied with the condition of the original agreement.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, the board instructed staff to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) and have it ready for the board's review at its next meeting on Dec. 17. An RFP is a necessary step in the hiring of outside professionals by the county. The vote to seek outside counsel was 3-1, with one commissioner recusing himself, the same as the earlier vote to reopen the road. Voting for the measure to seek outside counsel were Commissioners Stephen Walker, Betsy Barfield and John Nelson. Voting against was Commissioner Hines Boyd. And recusing himself because of potential conflict-of-interest was

Commissioner Benny Bishop. The Malloy Road Landing closure is an issue that still rouses strong passions and that continues to be shrouded in potential litigation three years after the commission made the controversial decision. The issue involves a boat landing on the Wacissa River used by residents who enjoy fishing and who argue that road was a publicly maintained road for 100 years or more. On the other side, the three property owners who requested the closing argue that the road was essentially a private road that led solely to their respective properties. What's more, the latter say, the landing itself is on pri-

vate property — another of the issues of contention. In 2010 the commission vacated the road at the request of three property owners, with Boland Land Inc. at the forefront of the petition. The abandonment, depending on whose version one hears, was either directly or indirectly a result of a negotiated land swap with Boland Land LLC, where the county gained a piece of Boland-owned property that gave access to the river for an intended park at the head of Wacissa. In exchange, the county gave Boland Land LLC another piece of property and the promise — again depending on which side is telling the story

— to outright vacate Malloy Landing Road as part of the deal, or merely to hold a public hearing to consider the vacation of Malloy Landing Road absent any guarantees. Adding fuel to the fire, soon after the road's closing, Nestlé Waters North America entered the picture, leasing a piece of property from Boland Lands Inc. to conduct tests on the Wacissa River to determine if the company could place a water withdrawal facility there for its water-bottling plant in Madison County. Opponents of the road closing saw the road closing as part of an orchestrated design to bring the water-bottling company into the area.

CROSSWORDS

"Split Decision"

Across

- 1. Politically correct pronoun
- 6. Letters before U
- 9. Pile
- 13. Survey choice, sometimes
- 14. Former stadium for the Mets
- 15. World's Fair word
- 16. Bread choice
- 18. Facades
- 19. School period
- 20. Blood-pumping organ
- 21. One of the Seven Deadly Sins
- 22. Cry to the toreador
- 23. Ripken of baseball
- 24. Quaker food
- 26. Some family tree members
- 31. Be a bad houseguest
- 34. Marge and Homer's middle child
- 35. House vote
- 36. Enjoys, as benefits
- 37. Wine container
- 38. One brick shy of a load
- 40. Landers of advice
- 41. "Woe is me!"
- 43. Lose it
- 44. Breed that runs quickly over short distances
- 47. Stray dog, often
- 48. Ladies of the house
- 49. Gorilla's cousin
- 52. Three-card monte, notably
- 54. ___-Kettering Institute
- 57. Trebek of "Jeopardy!"

Down

- 1. Do-it-yourselfer's bookstore section
- 2. Singer Merman
- 3. Coast
- 4. Captain's spot
- 5. Before
- 6. Perlman of "Cheers"
- 7. Cook very quickly, as a tuna steak
- 8. Parlor acquisitions
- 9. Wellness
- 10. Comment to a burper
- 11. Many N.Y.C. homes
- 12. Washington newspaper
- 14. Pantry division
- 17. Animal with blubber
- 23. "The Cup of Tea" painter Mary
- 25. Speechless
- 26. '50s dance
- 27. Get red in the face
- 28. Fix, as an outcome
- 29. Monthly expense
- 30. Gives an opinion
- 31. Iran neighbor
- 32. Bill of fare
- 33. Tropics headgear
- 37. Jolt
- 39. Unified
- 42. "Dig in!"
- 43. President Ulysses S. ___
- 45. Whispered words
- 46. Nebraska's largest city
- 49. Honolulu howdy
- 50. "For ___ sake!"
- 51. Exercise, as influence
- 52. Hit the mall
- 53. Deep sleep
- 55. Dietetic, in ad-speak
- 56. Beast
- 57. Prefix with chamber or bellum
- 60. "Yo!"

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Man Celebrates 109th Birthday
In Glenburn Township, Pa., Leo Moskowitz celebrated his 109th birthday, celebrating with family and friends. When asked if he knew the secret to longevity Moskowitz answered, "If I knew what the secret was, I'd patent it." His wife Ann, 87 years old and wife of 45 years, said he used to answer playfully with, "No peer pressure and God can't find me." Moskowitz said he knows God will "catch on eventually."

Man Arrested For Driving After Eating Spiked Cake
In Ostersund, Sweden, a 27-year-old man was arrested on narcotics allegations when he was pulled over on his way from a dinner party. The man submitted to a blood test where traces of tetrahydrocannabinol, the active chemical in marijuana, were found. The Swedish man said the chemical was the result of eating a cake spiked with the drug and took it to court. The court agreed the man seemed to have ingested the substance accidentally at the dinner party. The charges were dismissed and the man was cleared of drug charges.



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US 19 South at Cooper's Pond Road
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Carl Desmartin, Minister
Sunday:
10 AM Bible School
11 AM Worship Hour
Wednesday:
7 PM Bible Study

Galatians 4:4-6
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

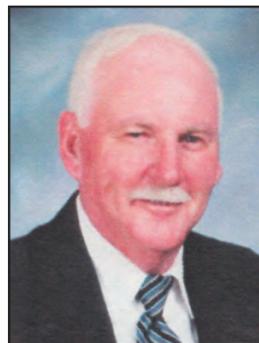
Come and worship with us! (John 4:24)

answers on page 12

Jefferson County Living



FRANK MARION ROBERTS JR.
February 18, 1941 – December 1, 2013



Frank Marion Roberts Jr., age 71, of Monticello, went to be with the Lord on Monday, December 1, 2013, peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Green Cove Springs, Fl. to Frank and Ida Belle (Bryan) Roberts. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Lloyd.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Clarice Downing Roberts, and a brother Dale Roberts.

He is survived by his son Frank Roberts, III (Angie); daughters Melissa Thompson (Perry) and Linda Hartson (Tim); stepson Stanley Clark (Connie); brother Ronald Roberts (Barbara); sisters Carolyn and Cathy Roberts; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Frank will always be remembered for his love of animals, especially cows, and working with them most of his life. He was the owner of Hyrest Dairy in Tallahassee, for 20+ years, and was associated with dairies in Okeechobee, and Fort Pierce. He was also a licensed cattle breeder and was known for his ability to barbecue, having owned Roberts Backyard BBQ.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Broadus-Raines Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. George Smith officiating. The family received friends at 12 p.m., until the service. Interment followed at Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Guests are asked to sign the family guest book at www.broadus-raines.com.

Arrangements are under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring Street, Green Cove Springs, 32043, 904-284-4000.

Christmas Around The Downtown

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Christmas around the downtown on Friday evening, December 6 was exciting to say the least. The streets were filled with vendors, music, carolers, colored lights, holiday displays, and even Santa Claus. He arrived on a firetruck and eventually was seated for an evening with the children. The children were lined up all evening with smiles on their faces and a wish list in their hands.

The stores and restaurants stayed open late offering specials and a blanket of refreshments. Holiday music could be heard all over town and continued through the night. Carrie Ann & Co. featured a special meal at The Mays House. The Monticello Pizza Kitchen staff was kept busy serving fresh, hot menu items. Brick-

house Eatery had its smoker grilling and smelling great, and Tupelo's Café offered hot chocolate and truffles. Monticello Florist offered a buffet of goodies for its guests and Gelling's Floral Design offered cold eggnog and other sweet treats.

There were so many people in town the Monticello Police Department officers had to stop traffic to direct the walkers around town. Neighbors and out-of-town visitors seemed to enjoy the camaraderie of the event as they stopped to chat, and shop, and sing, and a few enjoyed dancing. All sharing the warm spirit that makes Monticello a wonderful place to live.

There's still time to mail those Santa's letters. A special red box is located at the Monticello News office.

This event was sponsored by Main-Street Monticello Florida.



Santa's elves Caitlin Bates, Ali Townsend, and Sam Bush visit with Mrs. Claus (on far left) and Thor on Friday evening during the Christmas Around The Downtown event.

ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.

ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.

Kaleb Gray waited all year to tell Santa what was on his Christmas list. He got a chance to on Friday evening during the Christmas Around The Downtown event.



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.

Victorian dressed Anne Mara walked around town, stopping to visit with the children, and reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' She's here with Walker Gregory, Lena Sullivan, and Ava Lawrence on Friday evening, during the Christmas Around The Downtown event.



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.

Monticello Florist was one of the busiest businesses in town on Friday evening for Christmas Around The Downtown event.



On behalf of the Bellamy and Riggins families, we express our deepest gratitude to all who showed any acts of love and kindness during the loss of our Mother Lizzie Beth Riggins.

We extend special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Al Hall and the entire Tillman's Funeral Home staff, for their outstanding service. Also, to doctors Whit Boyd and Wesley Scoles and the Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine Monticello staff. And, thanks also to The Alzheimer's Project Inc.

We are forever grateful, and we pray God's abundant blessings upon each of you.

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Jefferson County Living

Opera House Christmas Trees Shine



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, December 5, 2013.

Magnolia Garden Circle of the Monticello Garden Club decorated its Opera House Christmas tree in red and green ornaments of years gone by, collected by each member. Pictured from left to right are: Linda Demott, Debbie Bailey, Dianne Braren, and Evelyn Buzbee.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Monticello Garden Club Circle members decorated the three trees on display in the Monticello Opera House windows on Thursday, December 5. Each Garden Circle decorated the trees differently depending on the member's choice of

theme.

The Camellia Circle decorated with all natural ornaments; popcorn strings, grapevine wreaths, bird feathers, tree debris, and dried flowers... all decorated with brightly colored ribbons, bells, and bows.

The Magnolia Circle decorated in an old-fashioned theme with glowing antique orna-

ments of red and green.

The Mignonette Circle decorated in shinning shades of purples, silver, and lavender.

The ladies all had a wonderful time of fun and laughter when they came together. Each member brought a sweet treat and warm drinks to share, putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, December 5, 2013.

Camellia Garden Circle of the Monticello Garden Club decorated its Opera House Christmas tree with all natural ornaments gathered from their yards and the outdoors. Pictured from left to right are: Carolyn Milligan, Dottie Jenkins, Maureen Meers, and Georgie Joseph.

SANTA CAME TO TOWN



Santa Claus was in Monticello on December 6, for a visit with all the good little girls and boys. He brought his two official elves with him too. Caitlin Bates, left, and Ali Townsend, right. He sends thanks again to all the volunteers who kept the reindeer fed and the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department, who gave him a ride into town.

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Road Trip



Sports

ACA



Basketball

Warriors Thrash Munroe

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors manned the hardwood against Munroe on December 5, and the Warriors thrashed their opponent for a 68-27 victory, to now stand 2-5 on the season.

The Warriors commanded all four quarters, outscoring Munroe 20-10 in the first quarter, 14-13 in the second quarter, 14-0 in the third quarter, and 20-4 in the fourth quarter.

As a team, the Warriors netted 15 of 49 attempts from the field, bucketed seven of 19 attempts from the three-point zone, and sunk 17 of 24 attempts from the free-throw line for 68 points. They collected 13 assists, 19 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for a total of 37 rebounds, with 21 fouls, 17 steals, and 14 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly netted one of five attempts from the field, bucketed three of six attempts from the three-point zone, and hit one of two attempts from the free-throw line for 12 points. He had one assist, two offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with three fouls, four steals, and two turnovers.

Brandon Holm netted one of two attempts from the field for two points. He had three assists, one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds, with three fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Zack Arceneaux bucketed two of three attempts from the field for four points. He had two offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of three rebounds, with one foul, and one turnover.

Ricky Finlayson missed five attempts from the field, netted two of eight attempts from the three-point zone, and targeted five of five at-

tempts from the free-throw line for 11 points. He had three assists, one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with four steals, and one turnover.

Timmy Burrus targeted four of seven attempts from the field, netted one of one attempt from the three-point zone, and hit one of one attempts from the free-throw line for 12 points. He had three defensive rebounds, three fouls, two turnovers, and two turnovers.

Casey Demott netted three of 12 attempts from the field, and hit three of four attempts from the free-throw line for nine points. He had one offensive rebound, five fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Shawn Blue bucketed two of five attempts from the field, hit one of three attempts from the three-point zone, and hit one of two attempts from the free-throw line for eight points. He had six assists, two offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with three fouls, two steals, and four turnovers.

Steven Trest hit one of six attempts from the field, missed one attempt from the three-point zone, and netted three of four attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had four offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of nine rebounds, with one foul, and two turnovers.

Carson Nennstiel hit one of four attempts from the free-throw line, and netted three of six attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had three offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with two fouls, and three steals.

The Warriors have since played against Lafayette on December 9, and FAMU on December 10. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

Action continues against Escambia Charter, December 13 at 7:30 p.m., home; and Lafayette, December 16 at 7:30 p.m., away.

Warriors Down Mayo

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors hit the hardwood against Mayo on December 9, and the Warriors downed their opponent for a 69-41 victory, to now stand 3-5 on the season.

As a team, the Warriors bucketed 19 of 56 attempts from the field, netted nine of 31 attempts from the three-point zone, and hit four of four attempts from the free-throw line for 60 points. They collected 18 assists, 20 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for a total of 46 rebounds, with eight fouls, 10 steals, and 12 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly bucketed three of nine attempts from the field, five of 10 attempts from the three-point zone to lead the Warriors with a whopping 21 points. He had one assist, three offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of eight rebounds, with one foul, two steals, and two turnovers.

Brandon Holm netted two of seven attempts from the field for four points. He had two assists, two offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of three rebounds, with two fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Zack Arceneaux hit one of eight attempts from the field for two points. He had two assists, three offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of four rebounds, with one turnover.

Ricky Finlayson bucketed two of six attempts from the field, four of 10 attempts from the three-point zone, and two of two attempts from the free-throw line for 18 points. He had one assist, one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with one steal, and one turnover.

Timmy Burrus targeted four of six attempts from the field, and missed four attempts from the three-point zone for eight points. He had two assists, three offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of four rebounds, with three steals, and two

turnovers.

Shawn Blue netted two of eight attempts from the field, missed five attempts from the three-point zone, and hit two of two attempts from the free-throw line for six points. He had eight assists, three offensive and seven defensive rebounds for a total of 10 rebounds, with one foul, one steal, and two turnovers.

Steven Trest bucketed four of 10 attempts from the field for eight points. He had five offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of nine rebounds, with one foul, one steal, and one turnover.

Carson Nennstiel hit one of two attempts from the field for two points. He had two assists, six defensive rebounds, three fouls, one steal, and two turnovers.

The Warriors have since played against FAMU on December 10. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

Action continues against Escambia Charter, December 13 at 7:30 p.m., home; and Lafayette, December 16 at 7:30 p.m., away.

ACA Young Lady Warriors Win Two Of Three

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy middle school Lady Warriors won two of the past three games on the hardwood, to now stand 5-1 on the season.

The young Lady Warriors faced off against New Testament on November 22, and suffered the first loss

of the season, in a 28-26 squeaker.

Meagan Schofill scored two points.

Abigail Morgan had one point and grabbed seven rebounds.

Camryn Grant led the scoreboard, targeted for 14 points, she snagged a whopping 22 rebounds for a double-double, and had three steals.

Katie James had three rebounds.

Elizabeth Hightower netted for four points, grabbed eight rebounds and four steals.

Carly Joiner scored five points, with four rebounds and nine steals.

The young Lady Warriors hit the hardwood against Georgia Christian on November 25, and Aucilla came out with a 29-27 victory in double overtime.

Meagan Schofill had three rebounds, and three steals.

Shayma Lott had one rebound.

Ashlyn Rogers had five rebounds.

Abigail Morgan grabbed six rebounds.

Grace Beshears had one rebound and one steal.

Camryn Grant led the scoreboard with 15 points, and snagged 16 rebounds for a double-double with eight steals.

Katie James had two rebounds and two steals.

Elizabeth Hightower scored four points, with five rebounds and eight steals.

Carly Joiner bucketed for 10 points, with two assists, five rebounds and four steals.

The young Lady

Warriors hit the hardwood against North Florida Christian on November 26 and the young Lady Warriors thrashed their opponent for a 28-12 win.

Meagan Schofill snagged 12 rebounds with two steals.

Shayma Lott had one rebound and one steal.

Ashlyn Rogers had two rebounds.

Abigail Morgan scored four points and had four rebounds.

Grace Beshears had two rebounds.

Camryn Grant bucketed for eight points, with seven rebounds and four steals.

Katie James had one rebound and one steal.

Chloe Reams had points, one rebound and one steal.

Elizabeth Hightower netted for four points, with three rebounds and one steal.

Carly Joiner bucketed for six points, snagged six rebounds and three steals.

Haley Jones scored points, with one rebound and one steal.

Summer Dee had two rebounds.

The young Lady Warriors have since played against Munroe December 5, Mayo on December 9, and Munroe on December 10. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

Action continues against Highland Christian, January 7 at 4 p.m., home; Brookwood, January 10 at 4 p.m., away; Georgia Christian, January 13 at 4 p.m., home; and wrapping up the season, Brookwood, January 14 at 4:30 p.m., home.

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Sports

Varsity Tigers Drop First Three Games

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County varsity Tigers dropped the first three games on the hardwood, to now stand 0-3 on the season.

On November 25, the Tigers manned the hardwood against Melody Christian and the Tigers were skinned for a 79-43 loss.

Melody Christian commanded all four quarters, outscoring Jefferson, 24-13 in the first quarter, 18-11 in the second quarter, 17-8 in the third quarter, and 20-11 in the fourth quarter.

As a team, the Tigers bucketed six of 17 attempts from the three-point zone, dropped in 12 of 37 attempts from the field, and netted one of six from the free-throw line for 43 points. They had nine offensive and 19 defensive rebounds for a total of 28 rebounds, with seven assists, 10 steals, seven blocked shots, and 18 personal fouls.

John Burns bucketed two of five attempts from the three-point zone, and hit one of four attempts from the field for eight points. He had three offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of eight rebounds, with one steal, and five personal fouls.

Leo Russell missed four attempts from the field and had one offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with two assists, and three personal fouls.

Keondrae Parker netted one of two attempts from the three-point zone, two of six attempts from the field, and one of two attempts from the free-throw line for eight points. He had two offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds with one assist, two steals, two blocked shots, and five personal fouls.

Robert Nealy targeted two of three attempts from the free-throw line and five of 10 attempts from the field for 16 points to lead the Tigers. He had one offensive and three



defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds with two assists, six steals and three blocked shots. He was named the player of the game.

Lascelles Dykes hit one of four attempts from the field for two points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds with one blocked shot.

Terrance White netted one of four attempts from the three-point zone, and two of five attempts from the field for seven points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds, with two assists, one steal, and one blocked shot.

Tarlon Jackson missed three attempts from the three-point zone and hit one of four attempts from the field for two points. He also had one personal foul.

On November 29, Jefferson squared off against Wakulla and the Tigers were crushed for a 52-17 loss.

The Tigers were outscored 15-5 in the first quarter, 12-4 in the second quarter, 20-5 in the third quarter, and 5-3 in the fourth quarter.

As a team, the Tigers netted two of 13 attempts from the three-point zone, five of 32 attempts from the field, and one of six attempts from the free-throw line for 17 points. They had 10 offensive and 29 defensive rebounds for a total of 39 rebounds, with two assists, 11 steals, three blocked shots, and 13 personal fouls.

Leo Russell missed two attempts from the field. He had five defensive rebounds and one personal foul.

Robert Nealy net-

ted one of five attempts from the three-point zone, hit one of eight attempts from the field, and missed two attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds with one assist, three steals and two personal fouls.

Lascelles Dykes missed three attempts from the field, and had two offensive and six defensive rebounds for a total of eight rebounds with one steal and one personal foul.

Willie Harris netted two of six attempts from the field, and missed two attempts from the free-throw line for four points. He had three offensive and six defensive rebounds for a total of nine rebounds with two steals, two blocked shots and one personal foul.

Ronzo Wade missed two attempts from the field, had one offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds with one personal foul.

Brandon Bradley missed two attempts from the field, had one offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with one steal.

Terrance White netted one of six attempts from the three-point zone, hit one of six attempts from the field, and one of two attempts from the free-throw line for six points. He had two offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with one assist, three steals, one blocked shot and five personal fouls.

Tarlon Jackson hit one of three attempts from the field for two points. He had one

steal and two personal fouls.

On November 30, Jefferson faced off against FSU, and the Tigers were tilted for a 58-44 loss.

Jefferson took the first quarter, 11-9, however FSU came back to take the second quarter, 12-10, the third quarter, 16-13, and the fourth quarter, 21-10.

As a team, the Tigers netted four of 14 attempts from the three-point zone, hit 10 of 20 from the free-throw line, and 11 of 37 from the field for 44 points. They had 11 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds for a total of 38 rebounds, with four assists, 14

steals, six blocked

shots, and 21 personal fouls. Leo Russell missed one attempt from the field. He had two offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with one steal, and two personal fouls.

Robert Nealy led the scoreboard, targeting four of seven attempts from the three-point zone, six of eight attempts from the free-throw line and four of 12 attempts from the field for a whopping 26 points. He had two offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds with three assists, six steals and two personal fouls. He was named the player of the game.

Lascelles Dykes netted one of two attempts from the free-throw line and two of five attempts from the field for five points. He had two offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds, with one steal, and two personal fouls.

Willie Harris net-

ted two of four attempts from the free-throw line, and two of nine attempts from the field for six points. He had three offensive and eight defensive rebounds for a total of 11 rebounds, with two steals, four blocked shots, and five personal fouls.

Brandon Bradley missed two attempts from the free-throw line and two attempts from the field. He had two defensive rebounds, and one personal foul.

Terrance White missed five attempts from the three-point zone, hit one of four attempts from the free-throw line and netted three of seven attempts from the field for seven points. He had two offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds with one assist, two steals, two blocked shots and four personal fouls.

Tarlon Jackson missed one attempt from the field and had one defensive rebound, two steals, and five personal fouls.



Lady Tigers Split Four

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County varsity Lady Tigers split the past four games on the hardwood to now stand 8-2 on the season, and 4-1 in District play.

On December 5, the Lady Tiger hit the hardwood against Branford, and Jefferson was downed 54-41 for their first loss of the season.

The Lady Tigers were outscored 11-10 in the first quarter, 12-5 in the second quarter, 17-14 in the third quarter, and 14-12 in the fourth quarter.

Brianna Robinson led the Lady Tiger, targeting for a whopping 22 points, which included four three-point buckets, with four rebounds, and one blocked shot.

Briana Graham had three points, which came from a three-point bucket, one rebound, and one blocked shot.

Audrianna Noel bucketed for 10 points, which included two three-point buckets, with nine rebounds.

Jakeia Morris had four points and six rebounds.

Ambrosia Branham scored two points, with four rebounds and two blocked shots.

The Lady Tigers hit the court against Taylor County on December 6 and Jefferson Came out on top of a 28-22 scoreboard.

Taylor inched the first quarter, 6-5, but the Lady Tigers came back to take the second quarter, 5-3, the third quarter, 8-7, and the fourth quarter, 10-6.

Robinson netted for 10 points, which included one three-point bucket, with seven rebounds.

Noel scored five points, which included one three-point bucket and five rebounds.

Morris bucketed for 11 points, and snagged a whopping 18 rebounds for a double-double. She had six blocked shots.

Branham had two points, nine rebounds, and two blocked shots.

Graham had three rebounds.

Takayla Broxsie had two rebounds.

Rokendra Smith had one rebound.

Jefferson faced off against East Gadsden on December 9, and the Lady Tigers were skinned for a 58-23 loss.

East Gadsden outscored the Lady Tigers 13-5 in the first quarter, 9-5 in the second quarter, 16-7 in the third quarter, and 20-4 in the fourth quarter.

Robinson scored four points and had four rebounds.

Noel netted for eight points which included two three-point buckets, with six rebounds.

Morris netted for six points, with seven rebounds and six blocked shots.

Branham scored five points and had seven rebounds.

Graham had three rebounds.

Broxsie had one rebound.

Aladja Darity had one rebound.

The Lady Tigers faced off against Hamilton on December 10, and Jefferson came out with a 51-49 victory.

Hamilton took the first quarter, 15-13, but Jefferson took the second quarter 11-10. The Lady Tigers took the third quarter, 13-8, and Hamilton took the fourth quarter 16-14.

Robinson led the Lady Tigers with 21 points and five rebounds.

Graham netted for 12 points, which included three three-point buckets and she had four rebounds.

Noel targeted for 12 points, which included three three-point buckets with four rebounds.

Morris netted for 16 points, and snagged eight rebounds.

Branham had eight rebounds.

Action continues against Mayo, December 19 at 6 p.m., away; and Madison, December 20 at 6 p.m., away.

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From the desk of Edna Henry,
District Parent Involvement Coordinator

Unconditional Love



Parenting Tips – Unconditional Love

What is unconditional love? I have asked myself this question several times. Finally I came to the conclusion that unconditional love means love which does not hold you to conditions or limitations.

- What does this mean for parents?** Unconditional love is absolutely necessary for all children. This love without conditions or limitations is important in the development of a child's self-concept and self-esteem. You can always let the child know, "I don't like what you did, and I still love you." Talk about the situation with your child and use encouraging words so that the child will continue to feel loved.
- What is an excellent way for parents to express unconditional love?** Give your child focused attention every day. Focused attention is simply just spending time with you child. If you are willing to give your child the attention and time together, he or she will feel self-confident and loved.
- Why is unconditional love essential?** It is essential in helping to raise self-confident children along with teaching them how to love themselves as well as others. It is very important to make our children feel excited about life's possibilities and what a great way to show them with unconditional love.

Our children need to feel and understand that they are worthy of our unconditional love for just being who they are.

MENUS FOR DECEMBER 2013

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Three Local Entities To Host Gospel Sing



Southern Music Rising in partnership with the Jefferson County Education Foundation and Jefferson County Schools will be bringing to the community a Gospel Sing on February 22, 2014. The event will be held in the School District's auditorium on Water Street. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. and tickets will sell for \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00.

The District was originally approached by Cliff Miller with Southern Music Rising as a win-win event for both entities. Southern Music Rising (SMR) is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to the promotion of American music as well as the Monticello community and local tourism. Miller is pleased to welcome Hill Sound to the event. Brian Hill is an experienced, professional sound engineer and a veteran of several Opera House SMR performances. He will work to ensure the best sound possible during the Gospel event.

Southern Music Rising will receive public exposure through its sponsorship of the event, and 50 percent of the proceeds from the sale of tickets will be split between the School District and SMR in an effort to raise dollars towards the purchase of much needed musical instruments at Jefferson County Middle High School.

The Jefferson County Education Foundation has adopted, as one of its projects, the acquisition repair and funding of band instruments. Following a three year lapse in band activity, the resources for the band are in deplorable condition. The Foundation's goal for funding the effort is \$7,000. In addition, the Foundation is encouraging former band members (of any

band) to donate their "retired" instruments to the Foundation for presentation to the band program. Approximately 134 students have signed up for band, and there are only approximately 50 instruments, many of which are in need of repair and maintenance. Guy Hood states, "The Foundation seeks academic efforts throughout the year that are consistent with FLDOE objectives and that are consistent with STEM (science, technology, energy and math)."

Jefferson County Schools is dedicated to preparing all students for a successful future, and believes that providing wholesome, extra-curricular opportunities is key in making a well-rounded individual. The District is extremely grateful for the efforts from both the Foundation and Southern Music Rising. Superintendent Al Cooksey contributed, "I am extremely pleased with the excitement on the campus of JCMHS about the band. We have not witnessed this type of eagerness on the part of our students in years, and I want to especially recognize the efforts of our band and chorus teacher, Jeremy George, and thank him for his contribution and investment into the lives of the students at JCMHS."

All three entities encourage local choirs, bands, quartets, etc. to participate in the event. Contact Cliff Miller at cliffmiller15@gmail.com or at 850-464-2819 for more information. Music groups outside of the community are also encouraged to participate as time and space allows. Mark your calendar and plan on showing your love and support of our community by bringing your friends and family to this family-friendly event on February 22.

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Jefferson County Living

Boy Scouting - Time Well Spent

Are you 11 to 18 years of age? If so, come join Boy Scouting Troop 803. Boys who have achieved the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award or have completed the 5th grade can join as young as 10 years old. It uses outdoor activities such as camping, aquatics and hiking to achieve the aims of character, citizenship and personal fitness training and the different ranks of are: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

Developing strong relationships with youth happens through sharing time with them. If you are looking for a proven avenue for helping you devote more meaningful time to your son, call your local Boy Scout Troop 803 today at 997-1727 for additional information in joining the troop. Meetings are held on Monday nights 7 to 8 p.m., at the Eagles Nest on South Water Street.

The Boy Scout's goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citi-

zenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

However, some elements in the lives of boys are timeless. The need for people to feel respected, valued, accepted, and connected to those around them are constant from generation to generation. Parents help meet these needs in youth through making the right types of investment in youth. With a growing concern about the climates in which our children are growing up, adults are paying more attention to how and where youth spend their time.

The emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of young boys are met (or unmet) through their environment.

What goals do you have for you and your son this year? Parents of Scouts encourage their sons to be in Boy Scouting because they believe the program helps them do the following:

- Learn self-reliance 95%
- Learn moral values 94%
- Be in a friendly/safe environment 94%
- Participate in community service 90%
- Build friendships 88%
- Get positive role models 88%
- Learn respect for others 86%

Again, please call 997-1727 if you are interested in having your son join our troop.



CHURCH NEWS NOTES

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

December 13
First Baptist Church Monticello will host its annual Christmas Cantata at 7 p.m. on Friday at the church. Rev. Rick Kelley, pastor.

December 13
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. Call 850-342-3541 for more information.

December 13
Monticello Christian Academy will hold a Gift Wrapping fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday. Take time to vote on your favorite Gingerbread House, created by the MCA students. And, enter for the chance to win a Christmas stocking filled with surprises, Christmas ornaments, a fresh turkey, and a mystery bag. Each entry is a \$1 donation. Concessions will be available for a small charge and Santa will be available to visit with.

December 14
New Hope Church of God Seniors in Christ will hold a Catfish Fry fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday in the Monticello News parking lot.

December 14
StoryTime Ministry is held from 1 to 2 p.m. every other Saturday at the Jefferson County Bailar Public Library. For more information contact First United Methodist Church Ministry Chairman Barbara Hobbs at 850-523-1813.

December 14
New Bethel AME Church will host the planning meeting of the Tallahassee District of the African

Methodist Episcopal Church at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Rev. Dr. Carlton Taylor will be the Presiding Elder. Rev. Jimmie F. Dickey, pastor.

December 14, 15
Transforming Life Church in Lloyd will host a performance of 'Follow the Star', an original Christmas drama written by TLC Drama Director Heather Wilkinson. This stage play is an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story of Christmas, A Christmas Carol, and incorporates exciting effects and music. There will be two performances, Saturday at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Cookies and Cocoa Reception, and Sunday morning, at 10:30 a.m. For more information visit the church website at transforminglifechurch.com or call 850-997-TLC7.

December 15
First Presbyterian Church

will have a special Sunday Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m. with Guatemala Missionaries Melanie and Lloyd Monroe speaking to the audience. They will present slides of their work with the natives in their environment and showing their progress there. For more information contact Elsie Malloy at 850-997-5560.

December 15
St. Rilla Missionary Baptist Church will observe Men and Women's Day on Sunday, at 3:30p.m. Speaker for this occasion will be Rev. Sterling George. The Gospel Wonders of Monticello will provide the music. Devotion will be led by Dea. Lonnie Griffin and Dea. Henry Seabrooks. For more information contact Rev. James Mack at 850-997-8747at or Deaconess Eunice Love at 850-590-3715.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

December 13
Monticello Jamboree Band will perform music for dancing every Friday at 7 p.m. at 625 South Water Street. Everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to some of the finest music, enjoy door-prizes, soft drinks, snacks, and just enjoy some fun and camaraderie with neighbors and friends. This is a nonprofit charitable event; donations are accepted. For questions or concerns, contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049.

Thru December
Jefferson Arts presents its December Members Annual Show 'Mixed Bag-A Multi-Media Retrospective.' Shop and browse through the month. The Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for public viewing at 575 West Washington Street in downtown Monticello. For more information about the Arts or about art classes for children and adults, call 850-997-3311 or go to info@jeffersonartsgallery.com or www.jeffersonartsgallery.com

December 14
Jefferson County Historical Association will host its Holiday Dinner at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Wirick-Simmons House in Monticello. The cost is \$50 per plate and includes wine and hors d'oeuvres with the beef tenderloin meal. Seating is limited to 45 guests so reserve now by calling 850-997-2661.

December 14
Scarlet O'Hatters will meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday for lunch and fellowship. Contact Hostess Bethany Kemp at 850-997-1063 or Queen Mum Pat Muchowski at 850-997-0688 for more information about this meeting and about the

Red Hat Society. Ladies are to dress for the Christmas holiday party at Heritage Manor, in the community room, on Texas Hill Road. Bring a wrapped child's toy, not to exceed \$10. The meal will be catered and the cost is \$12.

December 14
Cross Landings H&RC Residents Christmas Party at 2 p.m. on Saturday; open to the community. Administer Kay Maley welcomes all to stay after the party to visit with the residents. The Angel Band will perform and Santa will arrive bearing gifts for each resident. Come enjoy refreshments. Anyone interested in the 'Adopt-a-Resident' program should contact Social Services Director Mae Kyler or Activities Director Vonnell Thomas at 850-997-2313.

December 16
Al-Anon meetings are held at 8 p.m. on Mondays at the Anglican Church, 124 Jefferson Avenue in Thomasville. For more information go to www.al-anon.ala-teen.org.

December 16
AA will meet at 8 p.m. on Monday at the Christ Episcopal Church Annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information, call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

December 16, 17
Zumba® classes with Certified Zumba Instructor Susan Hayes, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30

p.m. at the MADCo Studio, 262 North Cherry Street, in Monticello. For schedule and contact information, go to www.susanhayes.zumba.com.

December 16, 17, 18, 19
Adult Dance Fitness at MADCo Studio at 7:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 7 p.m. on Thursdays. These 45-minute classes utilize stretch, callanetics, ballet workout, and dance to tone body to perfection. Contact Melanie Mays at 850-321-0036 for information.

December 16, 19
Fun Fitness classes for all levels! Mondays and Thursdays: Golden Girls Revival 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. and Girls Revival with Core 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Doris Bishop at 850-591-0085 or go to www.girlsrevivalfitness.com.

December 17
Palmer Place Book Club will meet on Tuesday at 6 p.m. to discuss the book 'Sing You Home,' by Jodi Picoult. The meeting will begin with the discussion and selection of the next book, and then attendees will share their views about the book of the month. Contact Abi Vandervest at 850-997-4607 or douwah-nadance@yahoo.com for more information. All are welcome to join for the discussion, to help select the next book, and to suggest authors.

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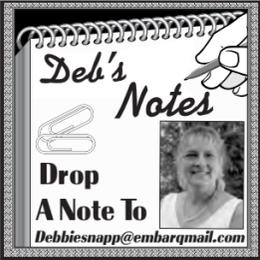
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Jefferson County Living



wrapped toy or two in, for the children in Jefferson County. The deadline was extended because there are so many more children this year. The donations should be new and unwrapped.

The Monticello Woman's Club Yard Sale scheduled for this Saturday, December 14 has been canceled due to the threat of bad weather. The event had been planned as an outdoors, on the front lawn area sale. Keep watch in the News for the new date. The ladies do still have a few homebaked Holiday Cakes for sale. Contact President Ethel Strickland at 850-509-9445, or 850-997-3382.

Cross Landings

H&R Center will hold its annual Resident's Christmas Party this Saturday at 2 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift for one or two of the residents. Santa will arrive to hand deliver the presents to each of the residents. This is a fun time for the community to come together for those needing extra love and attention. I will be there taking pictures, and I hope to see you there too.

Human Service Counselor Jennifer Brown, with the Healthy Start Program/Jefferson County Health Department, is asking for anyone who would like to adopt a family, or at least help out, to contact her at 850-342-0170x1071, or jennifer.brown3@fl-health.gov. These Jefferson families could really use assistance this Christmas holiday. One family is a single parent with a newborn baby girl, in the hospital with complications; another family is a mother who is still grieving over the death of her newborn some months ago; and another family is a working mom who just moved to the area and is trying to provide for her family. Thanking you and blessing you in advance for whatever you can do to help this holiday season.

Meet Your Neighbor Dave Allen

AMBER HOUSTON
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Dave Allen is a talented local musician and resident, whose first love is music and second love is Jefferson County and the friendships he has made here.

"I got into music in my teenage years," Allen relates. "I was raised in Columbus, Ga. A famous musician lived there with his father: his name was Chet Atkins. I started listening to his incredible music and got interested in guitar. I begged my dad to get me a guitar and lessons and he indulged me."

While he succeeded rather well as a student, it didn't stick at first. "As



Dave Allen

I got older, I got interested in partying and chasing girls," Allen grinned, shaking his head. "Teenager stuff, you know?" He laughed.

"I didn't get back into playing until I was 30. I heard another musician, Sam Worley—he was my first teacher 40 years ago. I'm 71 now.

Fast forward to 2007. I had been working for the state of Georgia, and the job played out. It was time to retire anyway and Sam and his wife Sallie lived in Monticello. They had been trying to get me to move in with them down here—see, Sallie was from here—and I finally took them up on it."

Allen took a few odd jobs since he has moved down, but mostly gets to focus on his music. He plays "at Brickhouse every Friday—weather permitting," and says that music keeps him young.

His other hobbies include fishing and reading, though it is clear that music is his first and deepest love.

Howard Academy High School Monticello, Florida 2013 Class Reunions Special Honorees: Oldest Surviving Staff

- *Age 104-** Gussie Williams Mallory • Teacher-Tallahassee
- *Age 90-** Addie Hamm Griffin • Cafeteria Chef- Tallahassee
- *Age 90-** Thomas Saunders (Happy Birthday) • Janitor- Monticello
- *Age 87-** George W. Pittman, Sr. • Principal-Monticello
- *Age 76-** Barbara Brown Johnson • Office Bookkeeper- Tallahassee
- *Age 76-** Patricia Brown Proctor • Librarian- Tallahassee

Reunions

- *45th-** Class of 1968 (Ages: 63)
- *50th-** Class of 1963 (Ages: 68)
- *55th-** Class of 1958 (Ages: 73)
- *60th-** Class of 1953 (Ages: 78)
- *65th-** Class of 1948 (Ages: 83)
- *70th-** Class of 1943 (Ages: 88)

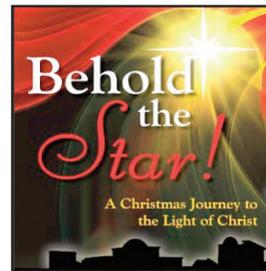
CONGRATULATIONS!!
Historian: Rosa Bassa, Class of 1968

WUMC Reminds All To "Behold The Star"

AMBER HOUSTON
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

On December 15 at 6 p.m. the Waukeelah United Methodist Church (WUMC) invites the public to attend their second-annual Christmas Cantata and children's play.

The cantata will be "Behold the Star,"



written by Lloyd Larson, and directed by WUMC Music Director Wesley Roy. WUMC will enjoy the talents

of a guest pianist, as well as the children in the church acting out and signing the words of the cantata.

Be prepared for a journey through a spectrum of emotion and spiritual awakening at 81 Methodist Church Rd, Monticello FL 32344. This event is absolutely free and will be held in the church sanctuary.

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THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS is seeking applicants for a Collection Site Worker at the County Solid Waste Department. The job description and an application may be obtained at the Solid Waste Department located at 1591 S. Waukeenah Street, Monticello, Florida between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Currently, the hours and days of this position are: Wednesday – Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Essential Job Functions are: Loads and unloads heavy material from trucks. Moves equipment and large bulky objects. Performs custodial duties. Maintains grounds. Rakes grass and waters plants. Weeds flower beds. Shapes hedges and trims trees. Cuts grass. Plants and fertilizes flowers. May operate tractor-mower in mowing grass on right-of-way. Picks up boxes and other materials left by residents. Needs to get along well with people and be able to direct and explain where the different types of materials are to be disposed of.

Minimum qualifications are: Ability to lift and perform manual labor. Ability to understand and comply with oral instructions. Ability to read street and traffic signs. Ability to follow safety policies and procedures. Skill in using hand tools. Education and experience needed: One (1) year experience in performing manual labor.

Licenses, Certifications or registrations: Possess a valid Florida Drivers License and a valid Social Security Card.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 P.M., December 20, 2013 at the Solid Waste Department located at 1591 Waukeenah Street. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Drug Free Workplace. Drug testing is a required part of the pre-employment physical. Applicants with a disability should contact the above office for accommodations. For additional information please call 342-0184. 12/11-20,c

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H	E	S	H	E	R	S	T	H	E	A	P
O	T	H	E	R	S	H	E	A	E	X	P
W	H	O	L	E	W	H	E	A	T	S	
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H	A	L	F	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S
I	M	P	O	S	E	L	I	S	A	S	T
R	E	A	P	S	J	U	G	L	O	O	N
A	N	A	L	A	S	J	O	N	O	N	S
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	H	O	R	S	E
S	C	A	M	S	L	O	M	A	B	A	P
H	O	H	O	S	L	E	I	G	H	T	
O	M	A	R	A	T	R	A	E	T	H	E
P	A	T	S	T	E	E	Y	E	A	S	T

JASMINE GREEN
Monitor Support Technician,
Shands Hospital

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Legals

Jefferson County Living

EMR Training At The MVFD



Larry Bates (far right) teaches the class. Left to right: Richard Peters, Corey Burrus, Houston Brock.

AMBER HOUSTON
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

After weeks of learning, the volunteer firefighters-in-training recently completed their Emergency Medical Responder training on Sunday, December 8.

The testing, administered by Mike Long and Larry Bates, was a grueling process, in

which the trainees had to demonstrate skill in everything from CPR to leg splints. The trainees still have a written exam to pass before they are finished with the Emergency Medical Responder portion.

By the first of the year the trainees (Houston Brock, Richard Peters, and Corey Burrus) should have completed their entire Firefighter I certification.



Trainee Richard Peters performs mouth-to-barrier rescue breathing on a dummy



PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS
For the Jefferson Heritage Road Committee at 3:30 pm on Tuesday December 17, 2013 and like meetings/workshops every Tuesday afternoon in January 2014 (Beginning 1/6/14) at 3:30 pm at the Courthouse Annex.
12/13/2013

NOTICE OF INTENT
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY hereby notices its intent to adopt the following policy which was approved for re-advertising on December 9, 2013: **(1.207) Board Meetings.** Advertised policies are available for public viewing and comment by visiting the District's website at www.jeffersonschoolboard.org, or by viewing a paper copy at the District Office located at 575 S. Water Street, Monticello, FL. (850) 342-0100. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
12/13/2013

NOTICE OF HEARING
The Jefferson County Legislative Delegation will be holding a public hearing in Monticello, Florida, on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7:30 PM. The hearing will be held in the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex, 435 West Walnut Street, Monticello, Florida.
All residents and elected officials are invited to attend. This hearing will allow the citizens the opportunity to meet their legislators, discuss concerns, ask questions and offer comments for upcoming 2014 Legislative Session.
12/13/2013

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON CITY HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
The Monticello City Council is seeking to fill two vacancies on the Historic Design Review Board. Board Membership is a voluntary position, and Members shall own property in and reside within the city limits. Certification or experience or knowledge in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, city planning, or construction would be desirable. Board meetings are at least quarterly and are held in the evenings. A letter of interest and outline of experience and knowledge should be submitted to the City Council, c/o City Clerk Emily Anderson, 245 S. Mulberry Street, Monticello, Florida 32344. For more information, please contact City Clerk Anderson at City Hall at 342-0292.
12/13/2013

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that JOHN F. WALKER the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 926 Year of Issuance: 2011
Description of Property: 16-1N-6E-0000-0029-0000
8.99 ACRES
Part of NW ¼ of NW ¼
Lot 3, Greenwood Estates
ORB 605, PG 724
Site Address: 148 LONNIE
Name in which assessed: CARLENE CHERRY

All of said property being in the County of Jefferson, State of Florida. This property when sold may be subject to the current year taxes.
Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Jefferson County Courthouse, north door on the 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Dated this 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013
Kirk B. Reams
Clerk of the Court
Jefferson County, Florida
12/13,20,27,2013/1,3/2014

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY,
AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-WF2, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-WF2,
Plaintiff,
vs.
WILLIE JOHNSON, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
To:
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, WILLIE JOHNSON ALSO KNOWN AS WILLIE JAMES JOHNSON, DECEASED

Last Known Address: Unknown
Current Address: Unknown

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

Last Known Address: Unknown
Current Address: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Jefferson County, Florida:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO WIT:

THAT PORTION OF THE WEST ONE-HALF OF THE SOUTH-WEST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WHICH WAS CONVEYED UNTO HENRY F. CARTER BY T. G. BISHOP AND WIFE BY DEED DATED THE 20TH DAY OF MARCH A.D. 1956 AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN DEED BOOK "TTT, PAGE 552. SAID POINT BEARING NEAR THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE WEST ONE-HALF OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP AND RANGE AFORESAID, WHERE THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF A COUNTY ROAD INTERSECTS THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY BOUNDARY OF U.S. 19 HIGHWAY, AND THENCE RUN WEST 220 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE, THIS IRON PIPE BEING THE STARTING POINT FOR THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; FROM THIS STARTING POINT RUN THENCE NORTH 200 FEET, TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN WEST 100 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 200 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE SET IN THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE LANDS OF HENRY F. CARTER; THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF HENRY F. CARTER LANDS FOR A DISTANCE OF 100 FEET AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LANDS HEREIN.
A/K/A 54 TECUMSEH RD MONTICELLO FL 32344-5524

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Albertelli Law, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 7th day of November, 2013.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Sherry Sears
Deputy Clerk

****See the Americans with Disabilities Act**
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Kirk B. Reams no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding at room 10, Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello, FL. 32344, at 850-342-0218; 1-800-955-8771 (TDD), or 1-800-955-8770 (voice), via Florida Relay Service.
12/6,13/2013

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Christmastime In Monticello

ECB Publishing Photos
By Debbie Snapp,
December 5, 2013.
Mignonette Garden Circle of the Monticello Garden Club decorated its Christmas tree in shades of purple, lavender, and silver. Pictured from left to right are: Jan Wadsworth and Mary Ann Clarke.



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.
Monticello Woman's Club members were set up to sell their annual Holiday Cakes during the Christmas Around The Downtown event on Friday evening. From left to right are: Jane Hand, President Ethel Strickland, Toni Lane, and Lilly Mae Brumbley.

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The Jefferson Journal Fish & Game Feeding Chart

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 13, 2013 through December 20, 2013
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)*

Friday, December 13 1:55 AM 8:00 AM 2:10 PM *8:25 PM	Saturday, December 14 2:40 AM *8:45 AM 2:55 PM *9:10 PM	Sunday, December 15 3:30 AM *9:30 AM 3:40 PM *9:55 PM	Monday, December 16 4:10 AM *10:15 AM 4:30 PM *10:40 PM
Tuesday, December 17 4:55 AM *11:00 AM 5:10 PM *11:25 PM	Wednesday, December 18 5:40 AM *11:55 AM 6:10 PM	Thursday, December 19 *12:20 AM 6:30 AM *12:45 PM 7:00 PM	Friday, December 20 *1:10 AM 7:20 AM *1:30 PM 7:50 PM

Give Thanks For Many Things This Holiday Season

As many of us are enjoying the holiday season, we may stop and think about the things for which we are thankful. Our freedom, family and friends, the beautiful Florida weather, hunting and fishing opportunities this winter and camping and hiking trips surely make the list.

Some other blessings to remember are the people who fight for our freedom, those working to keep us safe in our daily lives and those keeping the resources plentiful and the environment beautiful. Often, they may actually be one and the same.

More than 200 members of the Florida Fish and

Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement have previously served in the military, are currently on active duty or are active in the reserves or National Guard. These folks serve triple duty by protecting us, our natural resources and our country.

They represent all branches of the military and bring a variety of skills and experiences to the FWC.

They have been involved in operations Desert Storm, United Shield, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and others and have been trained and deployed in many areas across the United States and overseas, including Germany, Kuwait, Iraq,

Afghanistan, Trinidad, Russia and Somalia.

These military veterans and current military members serve throughout the Division of Law Enforcement, from operations to training to administration. Some are members of FWC's Special Operations Group (SOG), where they put their experience and expertise to work in Florida. Some fly aircraft or teach at our academy, while others patrol the woods and waters of our great state. Still others are members of the FWC's leadership or support staff.

Last week, on Thanksgiving night, three duck hunters were stranded when their boat capsized on Lake Monroe in Volu-

sia County. The two men and a woman found themselves in cold, waist-deep water. To get as much of their bodies out of the water as they could, they climbed on top of the sunken boat. Luckily, their cell phones still worked so they were able to call for help.

The FWC responded along with local law enforcement and fire personnel. FWC officers Aubrey Ransom, Maxwell Edson and James Yetter, a former U.S. Coast Guard reservist, were successful in finding and reaching the hunters. They took the trio safely to shore.

In another recent case, Officer Paul Mendez, a retired member of the U.S. Navy, responded to a

complaint of someone hunting in a closed portion of the Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area. He tracked a vehicle for approximately two miles and found the illegal hunter. After talking with him, the suspect admitted to loosening boards to a gate and lifting the chains and locks over it to enter the closed area. Mendez cited him for operating a vehicle in a closed area and hunting in a closed area - both misdemeanors.

The FWC is proud of all levels of its military involvement. In addition to military service, FWC staff supports Wounded Warrior hunts, participates in the Employer Support for the Guard and

Reserve program and coordinates license exemptions for disabled veterans, military members stationed out of state and those participating in a Military/Disabled Veteran Event.

The FWC also encourages veterans and current military members to apply to it for employment. Check MyFWC.com/Get-Involved for more information. You can also get involved by reporting suspected violations. To do so, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922 or text Tip@MyFWC.com.

Get out and enjoy all Florida has to offer this holiday season and remember to thank those who make it possible to do so.

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