

## Boys clinch District title

See page 12



## St. Mary's Shoals opens...

See page 14

# THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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80th Year, Vol. 3

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Macclenny, Florida 50¢

## Passenger is sixth '09 fatality



A passenger in the 2000 Buick pictured at left became Baker County's sixth traffic fatality of 2009 when the vehicle was struck broadside in the eastbound lane of US 90 at the interchange with Interstate 10 west of Sanderson the afternoon of April 29. Trooper H.J. Chichodki said the Buick was leaving the nearby Citgo station and heading toward the eastbound I-10 on-ramp when it drove into the path of a 1996 Dodge pickup driven by Doug Raulerson, 44, of Glen St. Mary. Mary A. Roberson, 79, of West Monroe, LA was pronounced dead at Fraser Memorial Hospital. Elzy L. Roberson, 84, the Buick's driver, was taken to the hospital with serious injuries. A passenger in the pickup, Paul Raulerson, 69, also of Glen and the father of the driver, had minor injuries. Mr. Raulerson is a Baker County School Board member and father of school Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson. The occupants of both vehicles were wearing seat belts when the accident occurred about 3:35. The Raulersons were towing a cattle trailer that jackknifed upon impact.

### I-10 & US 90 interchange is confusing and dangerous turf

A confusing maze of entrance and exit ramps, the positioning of a gas station and design flaws that create virtual blind spots — they all make the intersection of US 90 and Interstate 10 west of Sanderson a dangerous place.

It was the location of last week's fatal accident (see above) and that comes as no surprise to local police, who have been to dozens of wrecks

there in years past, most involving at least one vehicle whose occupant or occupants are from out of the county.

"That's a terrible location," assesses Maj. Gerald Gonzalez, chief of patrol operations for the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

"Usually when you have a crash there, it's not good. It's either serious injuries or death."



Scott Lent, a DOT safety engineer, said in 2003-2007 there were a dozen crashes with 20 injuries and no fatalities. DOT does not yet have figures from last year, but they have (See page 2)

## Added stimulus funds to rehab old jail?

### \$400K may be subject to FDLE's nod

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
*reporter@bakercountypress.com*

Baker County's cut of the federal stimulus package grew considerably larger this month after the Florida Department of Law

“When you bid it, it might come in a little less. But we don't have a million [dollars] to throw at it.”  
—Joe Cone  
*County manager on scaling down old jail rehab project*”

called FDLE administrator Clayton Wilder, who had sent the grant notification.

“He was very encouraging,” said Mr. Cone, although the manager still wants written approval from FDLE for the project.

A Tallahassee architectural firm estimated the rehabilitation cost of the 130-bed jail at \$934,000.

Sheriff Dobson had approached the Baker County Commission April 20 about the board’s willingness to fund the work. In return, he said the Baker Correctional Development Corporation (BCDC) could lease the building from the county for about

\$600,000 a year to house local inmates and free up space at the new jail north of Macclenny for federal prisoners.

Citizens were hesitant at that time to commit funds for all the improvements, saying the \$214,000 roof replacement would be a good place to start.

But with the new money from FDLE, more of the work could be completed.

The one-time, no-match grant to the county is expected to trickle down from more than \$81.5 million earmarked to FDLE from a US Department of Justice grant, which received increased funding with this

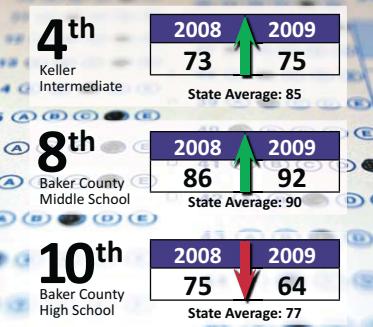
(See page 2)

### Health director preparing locally for ‘swine flu’ possibility

-See page 14

### FCAT Writing scores show marked improvement for most, loss for one

While fourth and eighth graders made gains this year on the FCAT writing test, the number of high school students performing at or above the minimally acceptable level dropped nine percent, continuing a slide from a high of 81 percent in 2007.



## House privatization measure is shot down as legislature adjourns

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
*reporter@bakercountypress.com*

The proposal to privatize Northeast Florida State Hospital to save the state more than \$3 million next year was pulled from Florida House's budget following conference negotiations April 29 in Tallahassee.

The state senate eliminated a similar provision in its budget package early last month after 100-plus local residents, government officials and hospital staffers journeyed to the capitol in support of keeping the hospital public.

“I am grateful the House agreed to keep Northeast Florida State Hospital as a state facility,” Rep. Janet Adkins (R-Fernandina Beach), whose district includes Baker County, said in a statement following the move. “This is a very important issue to my constituents and the families in Baker County.”

The point man for much of the local effort against privatization has been Darryl Register, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission.

He was pleased to discover the privatization proposal was not included in a budget compromise reached May 5 between house and senate leadership on the state's \$65 billion spending plan.

“We expected that,” he said, “but it feels good to know it.”

Mr. Register even spent his birthday this year away from friends and family while working at the capitol for much of the last two months.

“I still haven't found the top of my desk,” he said half-jokingly this week.

Mr. Register said his staff at the chamber helped greatly by planning the organization's annual golf tournament held late last month.

“I didn't have to commit that much time to it,” he said, adding that some other minor tasks had to be pushed to the side, like setting up the chamber to accept credit card payments.

“I just got back to that one yesterday,” said Mr. Register.

Although the state hospital will remain publicly-run facility for another year, officials have said they don't expect proponents of privatization to cease their efforts, particularly Boca Raton-based Geo Care Inc., which manages three state-owned hospitals in South Florida.

Mr. Register said he believes the Baker County Legislative Coalition — which includes officials from the county, City of Macclenny, Town of Glen and the school district — should meet for a debriefing session to discuss everything that's happened and how to prepare for the future.

(See page 2)

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## AccuWeather® Forecast for Baker County

### 7-Day Forecast



### Tides

	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13
First high	1:49 a.m.	2:27 a.m.	3:07 a.m.	3:44 a.m.	4:21 a.m.	4:59 a.m.	5:39 a.m.
First low	7:18 a.m.	8:26 a.m.	8:58 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	10:04 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	11:16 a.m.
Second high	1:03 p.m.	1:34 p.m.	2:04 p.m.	2:36 p.m.	3:08 p.m.	3:42 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
Second low	8:04 p.m.	8:42 p.m.	9:17 p.m.	9:52 p.m.	10:27 p.m.	11:03 p.m.	11:41 p.m.

	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13
First high	7:24 a.m.	8:08 a.m.	8:51 a.m.	9:32 a.m.	10:12 a.m.	10:52 a.m.	11:33 a.m.
First low	1:49 a.m.	2:22 a.m.	3:06 a.m.	3:48 a.m.	4:27 a.m.	5:07 a.m.	5:47 a.m.
Second high	7:58 p.m.	8:38 p.m.	9:19 p.m.	9:59 p.m.	10:39 p.m.	11:18 p.m.	11:58 p.m.
Second low	1:36 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	3:01 p.m.	3:40 p.m.	4:17 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	5:34 p.m.

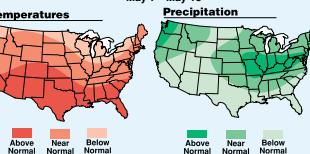
  

	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13
First high	8:07 a.m.	8:57 a.m.	9:28 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	10:58 a.m.	11:39 a.m.	12:21 p.m.
First low	1:49 a.m.	2:24 a.m.	3:08 a.m.	3:50 a.m.	4:29 a.m.	5:09 a.m.	5:49 a.m.
Second high	8:01 p.m.	8:44 p.m.	9:25 p.m.	10:05 p.m.	10:45 p.m.	11:24 p.m.	—
Second low	1:38 p.m.	2:22 p.m.	3:03 p.m.	3:42 p.m.	4:19 p.m.	4:57 p.m.	5:36 p.m.

AccuWeather.com

### Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

May 7 - May 13



### Solar Table

\* The solar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
May 7	10:01 a.m.	3:50 a.m.	10:24 p.m.	4:19 p.m.
May 8	10:43 a.m.	4:31 a.m.	11:07 p.m.	4:55 p.m.
May 9	11:28 a.m.	5:16 a.m.	11:53 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
May 10	12:18 p.m.	6:05 a.m.	—	6:30 p.m.
May 11	12:45 a.m.	6:58 a.m.	1:10 p.m.	7:23 p.m.
May 12	1:40 a.m.	7:53 a.m.	2:06 p.m.	8:18 p.m.
May 13	2:36 a.m.	8:49 a.m.	3:01 p.m.	9:14 p.m.

### River Levels

	St. John's at Jacksonville	Flood stage	Monday	24-hour change
St. John's at Jacksonville	—	9.28	—	-0.01
St. Marks at Newport	—	7.0	6.22	-0.04
Aucilla at Lamont	—	9.0	5.39	-0.43
Santa Fe at Fort White	—	24.0	21.79	-0.17
Suwannee at White Springs	77.0	—	60.93	-0.98

### Sun and Moon

Sunrise Thursday ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Sunset Thursday ..... 8:10 p.m.  
Moonrise Thursday ..... 7:05 p.m.  
Moonset Thursday ..... 5:21 a.m.

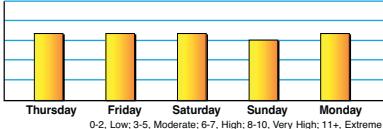


May 9 May 17 May 24 May 30

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Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet Rays. Shown are the highest values for each day.



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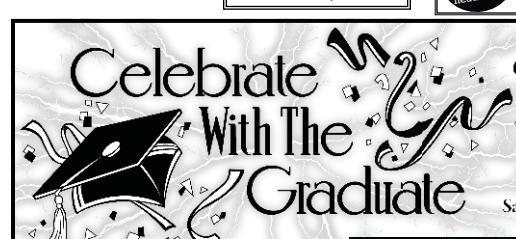
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# OPINION

Thursday, May 7, 2009

[www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com)

Page 3

## Now, it's up to NEFSH to cut costs *Best defense against another run at privatization in 2010*

As the Florida House and Senate adjourn and members go back home to do whatever it is they do when they're not in Tallahassee making mischief, the administration at Northeast Florida State Hospital is well-advised to take steps to at least lessen and probably eliminate another nerve-wracking spring in 2010.

It's time to cut costs at the state hospital.

The impetus for privatization of NEFSH is to save money. The spring of 2009 should have convinced any non-believers that money is key to making this change, and as long as proponents present [but not necessarily make] the case that the hospital can be managed more efficiently and still take care of the mentally ill, they will try anew.

The only way to take the wind out of their sails is to streamline the hospital operation.

Privatization proponents, backed by GEO Care based in south Florida, contended \$3.6 million could be lopped off the NEFSH \$76 million annual budget next year.

We have to do better than that to keep it under state control.

Let's start with a poorly kept secret. Of the 1213 authorized positions at NEFSH to care for up to 633 mental and forensic mental patients, many are non-essential. There's fat in the NEFSH

### IMPRESSIONS JIM MCGAULEY

payroll, and since personnel accounts for the lion's share of the budget, it's the most logical — and probably only — place to start.

My guess is an efficiency team could walk through the front doors of the hospital tomorrow morning, and within one month arrive at personnel cuts that would save well in excess of \$3.6 million and not adversely affect the well-being of the patient population.

The least painful way to start is attrition; simply don't replace some retirees. Support departments, people in maintenance and plant grounds keeping, laundry, etc. should be given close scrutiny.

The goal, it seems, should be preserving the jobs that come in direct contact with patients on a daily basis.

There's fat in middle management — the professional ranks and likely in administration as well.

The administration probably is limited in specific areas controlled by statute — a certain number of people need to be here or there; so many nurses have to be on the floor and so on.

Would there be layoffs? Probably.

Will the employee union squeal? Probably. Should we care what the union thinks? I certainly don't and you shouldn't either.

Perhaps you can call this poorly kept secret number two, but the fact is we are not as dependent on Northeast Florida State Hospital for Baker County's economic vitality as we were even one decade ago. If it means keeping the hospital here and keeping it run by the state, we as community have a far greater stake in that than we do worrying about \$3.5 million in budget trimming.

So, with the legislature going home this week, both NEFSH administration and its parent Department of Children and Families need to get to work. They don't have a lot of time since legislative committee activity picks up again in the late fall and early winter.

The privatization forces will be back, and will use the intervening months to lobby and kick money to legislators, trying to convince them they went in the wrong direction in 2009.

The onus is on NEFSH to take away the strongest argument the privatizers have.

For the rest of us who don't work for the state but depend to one degree or another on many who do for our customer base, show us you can do it. It'll be good for you, and for us.



## Mr. Obama's first 100 days, based on 'hacked' Blackberry

With the first 100 days out of the way and a thousand or so to go, President Barack Obama must be wondering whether this whole presidency thing is worth it.

I can't imagine why anyone would want to be president. It's nothing but trouble and worry. Somebody's always jumping on your back about something; you mention you want a football playoff and the blogosphere goes crazy. Your hair starts going a little grey and people claim the stress is getting to you.

As an intrepid yellow journalist who is always on the lookout for a scoop, I managed to hack into the president's famous BlackBerry and retrieve his day book for the first 100 days. Here's a few of the more interesting items that I noticed.

Day 1 — Either me or Chief Justice Roberts flubbed the oath of office. How embarrassing. Republicans are now claiming that since I didn't get it word-for-word, it doesn't count and John McCain is president. Right.Day 2 — My chief of staff informs me that a routine sweep of the Oval Office indicates that President Bush left a tack on my seat.

Figures. Also, all the Ws have been removed from every computer in the White House and all the screens have the scrolling message — "W has left the building." Pretty childish if you ask me.

Day 5 — I promised the kids a puppy and that seems to be big news all over the country. I have had hundreds of suggestions about dogs. I've a billion dollar bailout to take care of and all people are concerned about is if I get Snoopy or Beethoven.

Day 20 — This bailout is getting more and more ridiculous by the minute. These banks and insurance companies want billions from the government and then turn around and give hundreds

### MY SIDE OF THE MATTER ROBERT GERARD

of millions of it away in bonuses to the executives who put them in this mess to begin with. If they can't balance their own checkbooks how do they expect average Americans to do it?

Day 60 — I hosted the national champion Florida Gators at the White House and they gave me a jersey with my name on the back. I opened a can of worms today. Somebody asked me if I wanted to see a college football playoff and I of course said that I did. Who wouldn't want to see a football version of March Madness? I'll never hear the end of this one.

Day 70 — Somali pirates have hijacked a cargo ship with an American crew in the Indian Ocean. What is this? Am I in the middle of a Disney movie? Are Johnny Depp and Kiera Knightley and that guy with hair like snakes going to show up on CNN hanging from the rigging? Pirates. I need a smoke.

Day 75 — Michelle says I need to start using Grecian Formula. I'm beginning to get a touch of gray in my hair. Who wouldn't? I went to Camp David for the first time last weekend and when I plopped down in a Balconier to watch the Final Four somebody had stuck a tack in the chair. I thought the Secret Service had found all of them.

Day 80 — Swine flu? Like I need the Swine Flu with Chrysler going bankrupt and the Taliban marching on the capital of Pakistan.

Day 90 — I had a hundred bucks on Mr. Hot Stuff in the Kentucky Derby only to have a 50-1 shot win in the rain. That's it. I've had it. I'm quitting while I still have a 70% approval rating. It's all downhill from here. Somebody get McCain on the phone and see if he wants this job. Let him cure the Swine Flu and deal with pirates. He was probably on a first name basis with Captain Kidd.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

## Boy Scout Camp now a better place

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to one last week entitled "Coerced money for non-profit."

There has been much controversy surrounding the "old" Boy Scout Camp and the Baker Bunch Inc. As the fund-raising chairwoman for the non-profit, and being new to media reporting and perhaps one-sided story telling on some occasions, I have come to the conclusion that any media is good media. There will always be people weighing in with their opinion without true experience or knowledge. Now is a good time to reflect a little bit on the "old" Boy Scout Camp, and perhaps bring some additional controversy to the situation.

The "old" Boy Scout camp has been privately owned by the Rhoden family since 1974. It was sold to George Brian Rhoden by family in 1983 and he has been the sole owner the past 26 years. It has never been public property.

When Mr. Rhoden first purchased the property in 1983 he did not live here in Macclenny, and during this time with the added convenience of his private property being attached to county property and a public boat ramp, it made very easy access to what became the "old" Boy Scout Camp.

Mr. Rhoden made random trips to his property with his children on the weekends to camp out, and upon arriving on his own property, would find anywhere from 200-300 people camping on his land, doing drugs, drinking heavily, frequently fighting and everything else that locals remember about the "old" Boy Scout Camp.

He approached county officials on numerous occasions about what was being

allowed to happen on his private property, asking them for their help. For years, nothing changed, but progressively got worse. I am sure many people who read this, should they be from Baker County, know of rowdiness and ugliness there, regardless of the fact that many thought it was public property.

This piece of property is one of the nicest pieces of riverfront property in the county, and because the people decided it was more important to come out, break beer bottles and leave syringes laying out the sand, many other locals found it a place to never go anymore.

What a shame!

In 1996, Mr. Rhoden posted his property, which means he can prosecute anyone for trespassing. When Mr. Rhoden moved back to Macclenny in 2004, after his family and wife got settled into their new home, he actually moved out there and began the "change." He spent thousands upon thousands of his own money to clean it up, and decided that it was no longer up to him to allow access to the big river through his property. If people wanted to recreate there, they could start using the county's property and boat ramp.

In 2004, for the first time in over 26 years, those accustomed to coming to the Boy Scout Camp every weekend were told that it was no longer available to them.

Mr. Rhoden and the Baker Bunch Inc., are continuing that "change" to benefit not just our non-profit, but the thousands of you who live here and in the surrounding area. For the first time, it is now a safe, clean, supervised, local

place to bring family and children. For the first time, when you step foot onto the property, you know you don't have to worry about cutting your feet on broken glass or worse.

Mr. Rhoden is typically at his property during the week, and he might ask for \$1.00 to have access to his private beach, port-o-potties and additional amenities. He does not ask for money, or charge people, to go swimming. He has no rights to the actual river. We have not turned anyone away during one of our events for lack of a donation.

We want this to continue, and we want it to work full circle for everyone. We supply an incredible place to come on the weekends with family and friends, we guarantee supervision and friendly faces, and should anything start to look funny or unnecessary, we guarantee it will go away immediately. Every single dollar donated goes into the non-profit organization.

The Baker Bunch Inc. is not paying Mr. Rhoden for the use of his land in any way. He has donated this to our cause and mission, and for this, the Baker Bunch Inc., is ever so grateful since the money we are raising will establish the first-ever visitation facility for abused and neglected children in Baker County.

There has been a "community pool" there for decades and it got ruined and became a bad place. Now, we ask for a donation and we supply you and your family with an incredible weekend place. Where's the oxymoron here?

Nikki White  
Fund raising chairman  
The Baker Bunch Inc.

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Publisher/Editor - JAMES C. MCGAULEY - [editor@bakercountypress.com](mailto:editor@bakercountypress.com)

NEWS EDITOR - Joel Addington - [reporter@bakercountypress.com](mailto:reporter@bakercountypress.com)

ADVERTISING/PRODUCTION - Jessie Prevatt - [advertising@bakercountypress.com](mailto:advertising@bakercountypress.com)

FEATURES - Kelley Lannigan - [features@bakercountypress.com](mailto:features@bakercountypress.com)

ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS - Robert Gerard

BUSINESS MANAGER - Karin Thomas - [kthomas@bakercountypress.com](mailto:kthomas@bakercountypress.com)

CLASSIFIEDS & TYPESETTING - Debbie Hansen - [classifieds@bakercountypress.com](mailto:classifieds@bakercountypress.com)

## Confrontation, arrests could have been averted

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the article in last week's paper "Feed leads to arrest of four."

I did go to the jail asking for help, stating I was worried about someone getting killed. I did not insinuate that we were going to "kill someone." The article failed to mention that me and my husband Tommy Lauramore Sr. waited for about 20 minutes [for police] and were advised that deputies were busy directing school traffic.

That's when I became upset because my daughter, grandson, friend and her daughter had just been run off the road by two young men who had been taunting and harassing my family for a year. They even broke my youngest son's nose and were ar-

rested for felony battery and released the next day on their own recognizance.

There were other incidents as well [I have the police reports], so will someone explain to me why something hasn't already been done?

I was born and raised in Baker County, and I know — it's who you know and has always been like that.

As for what happened prior to the arrest reported in the paper, Sgt. Greg Burnsed, with his taser in his hand, ordered all of the men to the ground, including the two who had run my daughter off the road. The others were my husband and my oldest son, Tommy Jr.

I guess my husband [who has neck and knee problems] wasn't

getting down fast enough, so Deputy Michael Hauge knocked him to the ground. That's when the screaming started again. Sgt. Burnsed screamed at me, "Get in your damned truck!" I had a few choice words for him, and as I reached for my door handle he pulled his taser gun and was about to shoot me in the back when my son screamed, "Don't take my Mama!"

My husband then stated, "He won't taser anyone else" and he did not threaten to kill Sgt. Burnsed as stated in the report. Why did Sgt. Burnsed feel threatened if my husband was already in handcuffs?

If BCSO had done its job the first time when my husband and I waited at the annex for 20 minutes, all this could have been

avoided. I mentioned this to Sheriff Joey Dobson and asked, "What do I have to do, go to the newspaper?"

"You can put it in the paper, you can take it to the news, but there is nobody over me," was his reply.

I told him the governor was over him, and hung up the phone.

All four men were released on bond with GPS tracking devices. This is a bit extreme; what's wrong with court injunctions? Break one and you go to jail.

If anyone has experienced the same type of incident or injustice, please contact me at: [janet.lauramore@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.lauramore@yahoo.com)

Janet "Cookie" Lauramore  
Macclenny

## COURT

# 'Huffing' driver to prison for 30 months

A Jacksonville woman who told police she was "huffing" aerosol keyboard cleaner to get high before she ran off the road and seriously injured a Sanderson man in August, 2007 was sentenced to state prison on May 4.

Robin Stefanik, 52, had pleaded earlier to one count of DUI resulting in serious injuries to Louis Consolaro and a single count of DUI resulting in property damage with injury and damage. She had originally been charged with six counts of the second offense.

Court records show Ms. Stefanik was at the wheel of a 2005 Volkswagen heading north on CR 127 in north Baker County near Folsom Rd. on August 23 when she blacked out, left the roadway and plowed through four fences, a pasture and cattle pen before striking and pinning Mr. Consolaro under her vehicle.

Mr. Consolaro is the owner of the property and was working inside the pen when struck by the car. He sustained injuries to his hands, arms and elsewhere.

Ms. Stefanik told an investigating state trooper she purchased seven cans of the pressurized cleaner in Tallahassee earlier and was driving to Jacksonville when she became lost and left Interstate 10, heading north on 127. She appeared disoriented at the scene, and admitted she inhaled an unspecified amount of the intoxicating cleaner.

One of the cans was found in the vehicle's interior.

A pre-sentence investigation before Ms.



Ms. Stefanik

Stefanik's appearance in circuit court this week revealed she has a prior record of DUI and inhalation of harmful chemicals charges from Clay County in 2007. She received a six-month probation.

Judge James Nilon ordered her to prison for 30 months, followed by a similar period on drug-offender probation and another year on regular probation. She was fined \$1000 and her driver's license was revoked for three years.

Ms. Stefanik, who said she was depressed at the time due to the death of her husband and the fact that her two sons had left home, must undergo a psychological evaluation and install an ignition interlock system on her vehicle.

Two other chronic drunk drivers were up for sentencing this week:

- Jason Parmeley will get credit for 69 days already served in county jail before he starts a 364-day sentence on a third DUI conviction. After release, he will be on house arrest one year, followed by three years on drug-offender probation.

- Gregory Jones will be on house arrest a year, followed by three years on drug-offender probation after his no contest plea to a fourth DUI and refusal to take a breath test.

Judge Nilon ordered his license revoked permanently and fined Mr. Jones \$4000. He must submit to addiction treatment and at-

tend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings twice weekly.

- Dale Jerome Lee admitted to violating probation on several drug possession and sale counts from 2008, plus felony driving on a suspended license. He drew a 17-month sentence in state prison, less credit for time served in county jail.

- Eddie Bishara admitted to violating probation from two drug sale charges in 2004, and pleaded to a reduced count of attempted trafficking in illegal drugs. He will be on drug-offender probation ten years and must complete an in-house drug treatment program.

- Travis Bonnell got 364 days in county jail in return for a plea agreement on multiple counts of sale and possession of prescription medication. He was fined \$250.

- Floyd Proctor pleaded to modified charges of sale of controlled drugs and possession with intent to sell, and was placed on drug-offender probation for five years, in addition to a 364-day jail sentence.

- Judge Nilon placed Chazette Moore on a year's probation and ordered her to perform 50 hours of community service in return for her plea to having no valid driver's license and resisting arrest. She also must obtain a license.

- Jesse Ray Norman has already served 75 days of the 109-day sentence he received for introducing contraband into county jail.

An arrest warrant was issued for Edgar Allan for failing to appear, and a \$5000 bond for Cody Guernsey, who is already in jail, on an updated felony count.

## Jury selection, murder trial are scheduled for next week

The murder trial of a Macclenny wife and mother of two accused of shooting her husband to death the morning of March 3, 2008 is set to begin May 12 with jury selection scheduled for the previous day.

The victim, Kevin Jackson, 47, was going through a divorce with defendant Melanie Lee Jackson when he was killed at the couple's home at 7027 John Rowe Rd. about 5:20 am.

An autopsy showed Mr. Jackson had been shot once in the chest, five times in the back and once in the back of the head.

Judge James Nixon recently dismissed a motion by public defender George Nelson to suppress statements made by Ms. Jackson to officers and others after her arrest. He will also rule on a change of venue motion by the defense during the jury selection process May 11.

The defense argued this week that pre-trial publicity about the shooting will taint the jury pool.

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## Swerving motorists smelled of alcohol; deputies charge them with reckless driving

Two motorists from the Jacksonville area driving erratically and either in possession or smelling of alcohol were charged the past week with reckless driving.

Deputies responded to both calls based on complaints by other motorists.

Late in the morning of April 28, Cpl. Ben Anderson followed a 1994 Plymouth sedan eastbound on US 90 from CR 125 at Glen St. Mary. He pulled it over at Miracle Lane, and determined that driver William Hough, 44, was not intoxicated enough to be charged with DUI.

The officer said he observed the Plymouth continuously swerving on US 90.

Mr. Hough was also charged with having an open container of cold beer in the vehicle.

Hojmnie Myers, 38, was first spotted by Cpl. Michael Lagle driving westbound on Interstate 10 about 3:25 the morning of May 3, straddling the center line

and blocking both lanes of traffic.

The officer stopped Mr. Myers in his 2001 Ford pickup after it exited the interstate and headed south on CR 229 near Sanderson. It also weaved on the roadway.

When questioned, the driver appeared disoriented and believed he was headed home near the Baymeadows section of south Jacksonville. He also had an odor of alcohol about his person.

In other arrests, three persons involved in a shouting match with a crowd of onlookers following a street argument the evening of April 29 ended up in jail charged with disorderly conduct.

Deputy John Hardin said LaConda Ellis, 22, and Rozelain Johnson, 40, apparently were re-engaged in an argument they had earlier. When he was called to the intersection of MLK and

Minnesota Dr. in Macclenny about 9:00, a crowd had gathered and both parties refused to calm themselves.

Joshua Cuevas, 21, who is Ms. Johnson's husband, also became unruly when the officer led his wife to a patrol car.

A 15-year-old female student at Baker County High School was arrested on April 30 for felony possession of drug paraphernalia, including a needle and syringe found in her person.

A teacher reported smelling marijuana smoke coming from a bathroom about 12:30, said campus Deputy Tracie Benton. A lighter and smoking pipe were also found on the girl.

The teen said the syringe and needle were given to her by a veterinarian for a sick cat. Her mother in a subsequent interview said she knew of no reason her daughter would be in possession of the items.

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# Teen burglar stole firearms

## 16-year-old admits taking them from Taylor

The sheriff's department was notified April 29 about a 16-year-old male from Jacksonville who was arrested there with eight guns that were allegedly taken from a Baker County residence.

When interviewed by officers in Jacksonville, the suspect said he'd broken into a home at 12347 O.C. Horne Road, according to Sgt. Thomas Dyal's report.

The deputy spoke with the occupant of that residence, Jennifer Thibeault, who advised she was keeping the firearms — including four rifles, two shotguns and two muskets — for her friend Lindsey Stafford.

The latter victim met with Deputy Dyal at the sheriff's office and confirmed the guns were hers, but did not know their serial or model numbers. She later told Investigator David Morgan that her boyfriend's cousin began leasing the Horne Rd. residence after she moved. She said the juvenile suspect helped move the cousin in and knew the location of the guns.

A warrant was sought for the suspect's arrest on felony burglary and grand theft charges.

In another grand theft case, Danny Hunter reported three four-wheelers and two dirt bikes belonging to his brother-in-law were stolen from a shed at 6053 Sandra St. in Macclenny on April 30.

Mr. Hunter told Deputy John Hardin he was house-sitting that afternoon when he noticed sheds in the backyard were open and the property was missing. The last time he'd seen the vehicles was the previous day, but no unusual noises were heard overnight, Mr. Hunter said, according to the officer's report of the incident.

After searching the area for evidence, Deputy Hardin again spoke with Mr. Hunter, who he noted was behaving "very uneasy and was visibly shak-

ing."

The man initially repeated that he hadn't heard anything unusual the previous night, but then stated he had about 10:00 or 11:00 pm.

Mr. Hunter was also said he'd submit to voice stress test to rule him out as a suspect.

The case is pending.

In other thefts reported this past week:

- Jodi Altman reported April 30 that her father's 20-foot utility trailer went missing from the residence at 12027 Palmetto Place in Macclenny. She stated it was possibly stolen the week of a recent vacation and couldn't offer any information on a possible suspect. The trailer was valued at \$2100.

- Another Macclenny resident, Cheryl Pingel, said an unknown suspect or suspects took a lawn mower and ladder from her unlocked garage at 1059 E. US 90 sometime during the week prior to May 1. The property is valued at \$600.

- Jason Patterson also reported a lawn mower theft May 3 from 610 MLK Drive in Macclenny sometime after 10:00 pm the previous evening.

- Theresa Mahan of Macclenny told Deputy Christopher Walker April 27 that her daughter, Porshe Mahan, 19, of Tom Norman Road opened a Walmart credit card in her name last November and ran up an unpaid bill of \$110.

The card was cancelled and a felony charge for credit card fraud was forwarded to the state attorney's office against the daughter.

- Robin Eaddy of Macclenny said she didn't know who was charging her Vystar credit card to pay for satellite television when she reported the fraud April 28. The payments totaled more than \$512 during February and April. She told Deputy Walker she'd never given the card to anyone in the past.

The card was cancelled and a felony charge for credit card fraud was forwarded to the state attorney's office against the daughter.

The officer said school officials were aware of the fight and had disciplined both participants. They were not aware, however, of the attack until the complaint prompted a review of the video.

The same image shows that no other students who witnessed the attack came to the victim's aid, according to Deputy Benton's report.

Aggravated battery is a second-degree felony. The case will be handled by juvenile authorities.

Four other complaints were investigated by the campus deputy last week:

- A 14-year-old male allegedly stabbed a 12-year-old male twice on the left side with a pen. The incident occurred the afternoon of May 1 at the middle school.

- A female student at Baker High, age 15 and of Macclenny, is accused of disturbing the peace after she yelled and swore at assistant principal Denise Mann on April 29.

Deputy Benton indicated this is the second such incident involv-

## Knife, baseball bat used in fight

Criminal complaints for aggravated battery will be filed against two parties to an armed confrontation at the corner of Joan St. and South Boulevard in Macclenny the afternoon of May 1.

Deangelo Thomas, 29, of Raiford was treated at Fraser Hospital's emergency room for a bruised forearm he sustained when struck with a baseball bat by Vincent Thomas, 40, of Macclenny.

According to statements made to Deputy Matt Sigers by both men, they have been in an ongoing feud since the older suspect moved into the area.

That afternoon about 4:10, Vincent Thomas allegedly pulled a knife on Deangelo Thomas, who was armed with the bat.

The older Thomas snatched the bat from him after Deangelo Thomas attempted to strike him, then swung it causing the arm injury.

A number of other complaints and one arrest resulted from recent fights and arguments:

- An assault allegation against

George Jackson, 30, of Macclenny after he made threats against neighbor Freddie Smith, 28, following a court appearance the morning of April 30.

A witness affirmed Mr. Smith's version of events that occurred both in and outside the county courthouse.

- Complaints of battery against a trio of men involved in a fracas outside of Country Boy's convenience store in Glen St. Mary the morning of April 28.

Jerry Davis Jr., 27, of Sanderson allegedly exchanged words both in and outside the store with Librado Hauge, 43, of Glen because the latter man did not think Mr. Davis for opening a door for him about 8:00.

Mr. Davis' father Jerry Sr. and Jeffery Burnsed, 27, of Glen said they attempted to break up the fight before police arrived.

Mr. Burnsed insisted to Deputy Chris Walker he did not intentionally strike Arthur Simmons, 53, of Glen as he joined in the effort to diffuse the altercation.

- Crystal Rowland, 25, was

arrested for domestic battery for allegedly kicking and striking her sister Mary Rowland, 21, of Glen during an argument in their father's pickup truck the evening of April 27.

Deputy Mike Hauge said the younger sister had bruising on the neck, face and arms consistent with her version of events.

The older Ms. Rowland had a strong odor of alcohol about her when questioned, and the deputy took her to Fraser Hospital for medical clearance before booking her because she had also ingested prescription medication.

- Both parties to an argument over child support were named in complaints for domestic battery after police were called to a residence off CR 122 the afternoon of May 1.

Jennifer Walker, 27, told Deputy Pete Quinney her estranged husband James, 34, bruised her on the neck and arm, and the husband later said he restrained his wife after she became angry over a lessened child support payment and scratched him.

Deputy Benton indicated this is the second such incident involv-



Peer mediators attend summit...

Ten middle school students recently traveled to Umatilla, Fla. for the Northeast Florida Chapter's three-day peer mediation summit on cyber-bullying. AIDS-awareness and leadership skills training. The BCMS group (pictured) was also asked to present a workshop on qualities of leadership and peer mediation. The students have been trained in peer mediation and violence prevention. They are: (front row) Megan Farmer, Tyler Braddy, Taylor Dopsom, Baleigh Nipper and sponsor Anne Lewis; (back row) Becksy Kincheloe, McKenzie Wingard, Malory Osteen, Caleb Rodgers and Andrea Dempsey.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE LEWIS

## 'Oz' starts 2nd week

Sell-out crowds turned out for the drama production of *The Wizard of Oz* this past weekend at the BCHS auditorium. The production is on track to equal or better attendance records at the school, so don't miss your chance to see Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion try to make it to see the Wizard before they're caught by the Wicked Witch of the West.

The show runs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. All tickets are \$5 and are on sale at the door.

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## Student stomps head during fight

ing the student in two weeks.

- A male student at the high school, age 15, said he was struck several times in the parking lot about 6:45 am on April 23, but did not immediately report it because of spring break.

The student on April 27 described the assailant as a black male with dreadlocks who fled the area in a black truck.

• A criminal complaint will be filed against a 16-year-old female student at the high school for allegedly striking assistant principal Thomas Hill in the chest.

Mr. Hill and others were at the time attempting to break up a fight involving the accused and two other female students, ages 15.

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State Attorney Bill Cervone (pictured below at left) speaks to the family and friends of local crime victims during a ceremony held in Glen St. Mary for Victim's Rights Week. Ruby Johns is pictured below at right after lighting a candle for her grandson.



## **Victims remembered April 30**

### *First observance is held at Glen St. Mary park*

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

As Ruby Johns lit the candle in her hand, she was overtaken by emotion. The gesture was to honor her grandson, Philip Middleton, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2006 at only 20 years old.

Ms. Johns was one of more than 20 people who stepped forward under the gazebo at Glen St. Mary's Celebration Park April 30 to light a candle and speak the name of a loved one affected by crime.

The evening ceremony was organized by the state attorney's office in observance of National Victims' Rights Week, which ran April 26 to May 2.

"It helps to bring peace and know you can help someone else," Ms. Johns said of the gathering.

The Macclenny resident was joined by her daughter Cheryl Johns, the mother of Mr. Middleton, who was known to many as Petey. She said her feelings about the evening were mixed.

"It's good," she said. "But you relive it all over again."

Before the vigil, the group was addressed by State Attorney Bill Cervone and the county's victim advocate Anne Haynes.

"Your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers as well," Mr. Cervone told them.

Ms. Haynes talked about the symbolic nature of the candlelight vigil, saying it's a way to bring victims and their tragic circumstances out of the darkness and into the light.

"We're no longer victims. We're going to be sur-

vivors," she said. "It's important to move on with our lives. We have to keep going and not let it take the best of us."

Similar events were held across the country last week to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Victims' Rights Week.

The Office for Victims of Crime, an arm of the Department of Justice, began honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf in the spring of 1981.

Local officials have celebrated the occasion in past years, too, with events like a tree planting at the courthouse and smaller candlelight vigils.

But Thursday's ceremony was the first of its kind and something the county's other victim advocate, Julie Martin, said the state attorney's office intends to repeat each April in coming years.

Representatives from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and Hubbard House, a group

that advocates for battered and abused women, along with Sheriff Joey Dobson and others from the prosecutor's office attended the ceremony as well.

"It's sad in one respect," Assistant State Attorney Ralph Yazdiya said of his feelings about the ceremony. "But in another, you're remembering the victims and their families, so they're not forgotten."



Relatives lit candles in memory of lost loved ones.

## **34th annual Baker High art exhibition**

*Computer enhanced images, classic calligraphy in entries*

BY KELLEY LANNIGAN  
Press Staff

Baker County High School has been hosting an annual open house to showcase the artistic achievements of its students for over three decades. The spring 2009 exhibit held April 24 marks the 34th year of the event.

As the quiet strains of classical music filled the air, visitors viewed paintings, drawings, mixed media works and creatively painted furniture.

Seniors Andrew Thompson and Jacob Harrison were there to talk about their work and plans for their future after graduation.

Both young men creating original images, then scanned and manipulated them with tools of the Photoshop computer graphic design program.

Mr. Thompson created a clever collage using six photographs of his face which were repeated in a sequence across a black background. The result is a scattered, yet ordered group of fragmented images, somewhat like puzzle pieces that start off bright and gradually fade.

Mr. Harrison used Photoshop in a different way. He scanned a commercial photo of AC/DC guitarist Angus Young to create an image with bold strokes of color that looked remarkably like a drawing.

Mr. Thompson also displayed a calligraphy (hand lettering) study. Letters of the Old English alphabet run in vertical lines up and down the paper. Collections of words are clustered around each letter.

"I like Old English style lettering," he said. "This took me five months to finish and was done with ink, a brush and a crow quill dip pen."

"The word groupings are a combination of things I came up with out of my head and also from the dictionary."

Mr. Thompson is proud of the murals he did in the high school gymnasium, most notably the mega-muscled Wildcat decked out in football gear.

"The big cat is one of three images I did and it was so much fun, but it was challenging, too."

He worked on the mural while volleyball classes were in session. Fairly often, the ball would hit the wall while he was painting. He would stop, clean the ball, clean the paint off the floor where it had bounded, then repair the smeared part of the mural.

Mr. Thompson has been accepted at the Art Institute of Jacksonville.

After getting his degree in graphic design he hopes for a career designing publications for LifeWay, a Christian-based organization that operates its own book stores.

Mr. Harrison's self portrait, done entirely in shades of blue, was another eye catcher.

"We used a grid to help get the right proportions to enlarge a small image. I kept the grid squares as part of the final painting," he explained.

His painting of a barn had a very different feel from the blue



self portrait.

The barn was a study done by the class and that day Mr. Harrison was feeling a little down. The barn's dark interior became a representation of his mood, creating a vivid contrast to the very bright trees at the edge of the building.

Playing with the image of hay stacked up in one corner of the barn gives the impression of a figure standing in the dark interior.

Above right: Portrait by Rae Hester.  
Below: Sheldon and Terry Beasley view student art. Left: Calligraphy study by Andrew Thompson.

PHOTOS BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

"I'm not a photo-realistic artist. For me the objects are just sort of 'there' like impressions," he said.

Some other exceptional works on display were by Tyson Gibbs, Nicole Berry, Carissa Ward and Rae Hester.



Macclenny Rehab annual day at pond...

Lewis Carroll (front row, left) claimed bragging rights with his catch during the annual fishing trip and cookout at Monds Pond near Glen St. Mary on April 28. The event is attended by residents and employees at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center. Other than Mr. Carroll, pictured above in the front row is Amelia Smith; in the back row are Christine Reneau, Danny Hines, Yvonne Type, Raymond Hines, Marvin Wiggin and Cherry Wilson. Not pictured is John Simmons, the nursing home director who caught the first fish.

Photo courtesy of Yvonne Type, activities director

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Page 7



Hilliard-Knipp

## Fall wedding

Lamonda and Michael Moseley of Macclenny and Tommy Hilliard of Starke are proud to announce the engagement of daughter Tressie Nicole Hilliard of Starke to Steven Thomas Knipp, also of Starke. Steven is the son of Joe and Kim Knipp of Hampton, FL.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate the couple's wedding on September 19, 2009 at 5:00 pm at Sampson City Church of God. After taking a cruise, the couple will reside in Starke.

## Family reunion

Starling and friends reunion will be at Ocean Pond June 6th beginning at noon. Bring a covered dish. Call Anita Starling Kauffman at 275-2282 or Vickie Brown Baity at 259-7931 for more information.

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## MWC names Woman of the Year for '09...

Clo Rhoden (right) was selected 2009 Woman of the Year recently by the Macclenny Woman's Club. She was chosen on the basis of outstanding achievement and work in the community, on the job, spiritual life, and involvement in various good works throughout the state. She is shown here with Marilyn Hodges, the honoree last year. Mrs. Rhoden will be the club's ambassador and official hostess during her term. The late Wilma Morris was the first Woman of the Year back in 1961; Jewell Morris is the oldest living recipient, and had the title in 1987.

Photo courtesy of Trilly Crews

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## Sincere thanks

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Mary Jo Clayton for the love and hospitality that was shown at her home on May 1st mini-retreat for women. Things don't just happen — they're planned. This event was well planned. Thank to Mr. Alvin Clayton and staff, the parking was done with excellence outside. The food and fellowship was superb.

This truly is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in His sight. This is a perfect example of ministry outside the four walls.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON AND GOD BLESS YOU,

ROSA MARIE DOLISON

## School Lunch Menu

May 11 - May 15

**Monday, May 11**

Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit juice, milk.

Lunch: Slice of pepperoni pizza or chunky turkey noodle soup with a homemade wheat roll, choice of 2 sides: seasoned mixed vegetables, tossed salad, chilled fruit or juice.

**Tuesday, May 12**

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, fruit juice, milk.

Lunch: Taco salad with a homemade wheat roll or grilled ham and cheese sandwich, choice of 2 sides: lettuce, tomato, onion, cheese, french fries, creamy coleslaw, lettuce and tomato slices.

**Wednesday, May 13**

Breakfast: Toasted cheese sandwich, fruit juice, milk.

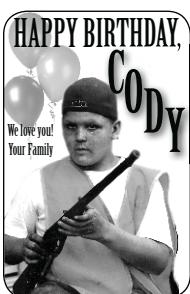
Lunch: Mexican burrito with salsa or chicken nuggets with a homemade wheat roll, choice of 2: green beans with new potatoes, creamy coleslaw, chilled fruit or juice choice with a slice of homemade cake.

**Thursday, May 14**

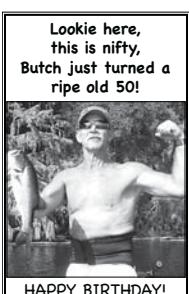
Lunch: Grilled chicken patty on a bun or beef vegetable sandwich, a grilled cheese sandwich, choice of 2: baked beans, raw veggies with dressing, chilled fruit or juice choice with a slice of homemade cake.

**Friday, May 15**

Lunch: Golden corndog or slice of ham with macaroni and cheese and a homemade wheat roll, choice of 2: baked beans, raw veggies with dressing, chilled fruit or juice choice with a slice of homemade cake.



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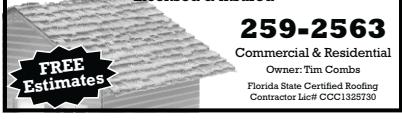
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357 NW Hall of Fame Dr. • Lake City • 386-755-2232

## WE ARE BAKER COUNTY'S ROOFING EXPERTS **COMBS BUILDERS, INC.**

Re-Roofs • New Roofs • Leak Repairs  
Torch Down Leaks • Roof Inspections

### We specialize in problem roofs

Satisfaction Guaranteed  
Licensed & Insured



**259-2563**

Commercial & Residential  
Owner: Tim Combs  
Florida State Certified Roofing  
Contractor Lic# CCC1325739

PLUS



**YOU'RE COVERED.**  
WHEN YOU BUY IT.  
WHEN YOU OWN IT.  
WHEN YOU TRADE IT IN.

### PAYMENT PROTECTION\*

IF YOU LOSE YOUR JOB, WE'LL BE HERE FOR YOU.  
WE'LL MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS - UP TO \$500 PER MONTH FOR UP TO 9 MONTHS.

### THE BEST COVERAGE IN AMERICA

5-YEAR | 100,000 MILE TRANSFERABLE POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY  
PLUS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE AND COURTESY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ONSTAR - STANDARD

AUTOMATIC CRASH RESPONSE, ONSTAR VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS, STOLEN VEHICLE ASSISTANCE - STANDARD FOR ONE YEAR ON ALMOST EVERY CHEVY

**VEHICLE VALUE PROTECTION** JUST PURCHASE ANOTHER CHEVY AT TRADE-IN TIME AND VEHICLE VALUE PROTECTION WILL HELP COVER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VEHICLES RETAIL VALUE AND THE REMAINING BALANCE OF YOUR LOAN UP TO \$5,000

ON EVERY 2008 AND 2009 CAR, PICKUP, SUV AND CROSSOVER WE MAKE

\* GO TO [CHEVYCONFIDENCE.COM](http://CHEVYCONFIDENCE.COM) FOR DETAILS AND LIMITATIONS.



total confidence



## PREFERRED PARTNER PLAN

### SPECIAL PRICING ON ALL VEHICLES

### FREE COURTESY TRANSPORTATION

NEW OR PRE-OWNED.

### UP TO 10% EARNINGS ON A GM REWARDS CARD

INCLUDES SERVICE AND PARTS DEPARTMENT. EX. SPEND \$550, EARN \$55

### PRIORITY SERVICE SCHEDULING

### PRIORITY (VIP) DESIGNATED SERVICE LANE

### FIRST OIL SERVICE FREE

### \$250 CREDIT TOWARDS PURCHASE OF NEW/PREOWNED VEHICLE

### FREE CAR WASH (ANY SERVICE VISIT)

### ONE (1) VIP CARD/ TWO (2) KEY CHAIN CARDS



Let us give you the  
VIP treatment today!  
Reece Crews  
General Sales Manager



4316 West US Hwy. 90

Lake City, FL

**386-752-6933**

[www.eddieaccardi.net](http://www.eddieaccardi.net) ~ SHOP ONLINE 24/7!

**AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**Submission Deadlines**- All news and advertising must be submitted to the newspaper office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication, unless otherwise noted or arranged. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

**Social Notice Deadlines**- Birth announcements, wedding notices and social events must be submitted within four weeks of the event.





**In Loving Memory  
of Lucille Myers  
Gaskins**

11/25/39-5/02/98

We ask ourselves, has it been 11 years since we saw your loving face? It seems just yesterday that we held you in our embrace. There is not a day that goes by that you are not in our thoughts. All the life lessons you taught will forever be in our hearts. Your sweet smile and kind words will always be there when we feel alone; we know that you are always near. We just want to say that we will love you forever more, and we will see you again on the great distant shore.

LOVE ALWAYS,  
CORNELIUS, MARIE, MELODY,  
KASSANDRA, CLEUTIS, GRANDCHILDREN,  
AND YOUR LOVING HUSBAND LUMARK  
GASKINS



**In Loving Memory  
of  
Tessa Lynn Godwin**

2/02/90-5/04/03

Sometimes we still can't believe you are not physically with us. We feel your presence in our hearts. But, we long to hear your voice and feel your touch. We can only imagine what you would be doing if you were still on earth with us.

We know that you are doing in Heaven. You are praising our Lord and Savior, dancing running and singing. What a glorious time we will all share when we get there.

We will forever love you and remember you.

UNTIL WE SEE YOU AGAIN FACE TO FACE,  
YOUR FAMILY

**Thanks from family**

The family of Ruby Jeannette Long Smith would like to extend its thanks and appreciation during the recent death of our loved one. Thanks to those who brought food, sent flowers or called, and especially for all the prayers.

Thanks to Mr. Bill Guerry and his staff at Guerry Funeral Home for their assistance making the arrangements; the Baker County sheriff's department for directing traffic; Carlton Davis of the Cedar Creek Cemetery board; Lavon Eddins Bass for the beautiful songs and to Brother Hurd for the use of his sound system, as well as setting it up and staying to help; the pallbearers and Brother Tommy Anderson and Sister Betty Byrd from the Road to Calvary Church for conducting a beautiful and memorable service. The friendship and love shown to us during this time are deeply appreciated.

DAUGHTERS HILDA MANNING, BONNIE BOLEN,  
CYNTHIA SMITH AND PHYLLIS WILMOT  
SISTERS FAYE BENNETT AND SALLIE TRAUTGOTT  
GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES AND NEPHEWS



**In Loving Memory  
of my Grandma  
Lucille Myers Gaskins**

11/25/39-5/02/98

Grandma:  
I often find myself thinking of the past of which you were a big part. It's been 11 years since you've gone, but it seems like yesterday. God must have needed one more angel in Heaven. Thanks for all you've shown and taught me. Continue to watch over me and the family. Miss you...

YOUR GRANDSON,  
JUSTIN GASKINS (J.U.)

## Benefit car wash

There will be a benefit car wash Saturday, May 9 beginning at 9:00 am at Baker Grill to benefit Timothy Folsom who was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be sold with proceeds also going to benefit Timothy Folsom.

## Spring fundraiser

Reflections Photography is hosting a spring fundraiser for Baker County Middle School May 1st - May 22nd. Session fees will be donated to BCMS for photography sessions booked during this time frame. Call 259-9500 for more information.

## Woman's Club sale will benefit YMCA

The Woman's Club of Macclenny is hosting a white elephant sale on May 15-16 at the clubhouse on South 5th in Macclenny. All proceeds benefit the Baker County Family YMCA's Strong Kids campaign.

Donate your white elephant or yard sale items at the YMCA on Lowder St., Badcock Home Furnishing on South 5th at Jonathon St. through May 12, or take them to the Woman's Club on May 13 or 14.

Hours on the day of the sale are 8:00 am-noon.

# Legal Notices

## NOTICE TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Board of Commissioners will receive written sealed bids at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063, until May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for the following:

### Project Number 2009-05 Asphalt Paving of 2.4 miles of Crews Road

All contractors bidding this project must be pre-qualified with FDOT in Tallahassee. Florida. Contractors may obtain specifications and bid documents at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063, until May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. will not be accepted. The Baker County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information call the Baker County Road Department at (904) 275-2373.

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2009-0077-CA

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2009-0077-CA

### RE: GEN. HARVEY, as TAX COLLECTOR OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Delinquent Taxpayer Receiving This Notice

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for Validation of Tax Warrant issued for unpaid 2007 Baker County Personal Property Taxes has been filed by the Plaintiff, Gen. Harvey, as Tax Collector of Baker County, Florida, against you, and that on May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. will not be accepted. The Baker County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information call the Baker County Road Department at (904) 275-2373.

You are further notified that a Final Hearing will be held on the Petition on the 20th day of May, 2009 at the Baker County Courthouse in Macclenny, Baker County, Florida at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Phyllis A. Roster, Circuit Judge, at which time you may appear and defend yourself. You will be required to issue of the Tax Warrant against you. The amount of your assessment or amounts of taxes levied will be determined.

A copy of the Petition filed herein may be obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Macclenny, Baker County, Florida, upon request.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this court on this 9th day of April, 2009.

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

To: JAMIE D. STACKHOUSE, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 27886 COUNTY RD 127, SANDERSON, FL 32087

UNKNOWN HEIRS, DESESSES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LEINORS, CREDITORS AND TRUSTEES OF CLARICE STACKHOUSE, DECEASED, ET AL., Defendants

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

To: JAMIE D. STACKHOUSE, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 27886 COUNTY RD 127, SANDERSON, FL 32087

UNKNOWN HEIRS, DESESSES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LEINORS, CREDITORS AND TRUSTEES OF CLARICE STACKHOUSE, DECEASED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN

You are notified that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Baker County, Florida:

LOT 11, RIVERVIEW ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 72 OF RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, MACCLENNY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH A 1984 DEED, MOBILE HOME, SERIAL #030091

commonly known as 23406 HASSEE JOHNS RD, SANDERSON, FL 32087 has been filed against you and your heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lessors, and other persons having title to a copy of the petition in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court for a copy of your receipt of notice of this notice or if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

If you are a person with a disability and you may need assistance to copy the petition in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court for a copy of your receipt of notice of this notice or if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

CLERK OF THE COURT  
Honorable Al Fraser  
330 E. Macclenny Avenue  
Macclenny, Florida 32063  
By: Jamie Crews  
Deputy Clerk

AL FRASER  
As CLERK OF THE COURT  
BY: JAMIE CREWS  
Deputy Clerk

4/16/5/7

#### NOTICE Invitation for BIDS (FB) Bid #09-03

Landfill Gas Collection System Maintenance Services

New River Solid Waste Association (NRWSA) is extending an Invitation for Bid for maintenance services for the Landfill Gas Collection System at the New River Regional Landfill (NRRL). The work generally consists providing timely landfill gas collection and control (LGCC) system repairs and maintenance at the Landfill. The work will consist of one year two-year extension options to renew the agreement under the same terms and conditions. These situations may include equipment malfunctions; providing emergency response for unscheduled events that cause the LGCC system to shutdown; performing non-routine system repairs and maintenance; performing scheduled system construction and replacement. These situations may be the result of condensate blockages, equipment failure, or other causes. The work will be performed according to the operations sequence plan. The landfill gas system operates under a Title V permit, which will require that the system not be shut down for more than 24 hours. The system must timely respond to a system malfunction is imperative.

NRWSA is located 2.5 miles north of Ralford, Florida on State Road 121 in Union County, Florida. Bid documents will be available at the office of the New River Regional Landfill located at 24275 NE 157th Street, Ralford, FL 32085. All bids must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 2009. Bids are to be mailed to the New River Solid Waste Association, P.O. Box 647, Ralford, Florida 32083-0647 or faxed to the NRWSA Administration office at 386-4200. The bid opening will be held on Friday, June 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. The DEADLINE for submitting bids or a portion thereof for any reason, Any bids received after the specified time and date will not be considered. For additional information contact 386-4200.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER DECEDENTS DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER DECEDENTS DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is May 7, 2009.

Signed this 25th day of March, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

JANICE LE GANEY  
2619 C.R. 250  
Sanderson, Florida 32087

JOHN LYNN BROOKING  
Florida Dept. Number 10999  
BROWN & BROOKING  
Post Office Box 40  
Starke, Florida 32091  
Voice: 904-964-3722  
Fax: 904-964-3796

5/7/14

#### NOTICE TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Board of Commissioners will receive written sealed bids at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063, until May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for the following:

### Project Number 2009-05 Asphalt Paving of Various County Roads w/ Total of Approximately 2.8 miles

All contractors bidding this project must be pre-qualified with FDOT in Tallahassee, Florida. Contractors may obtain specifications and bid documents at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063, until May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. will not be accepted. The Baker County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information call the Baker County Road Department at (904) 275-2373.

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### Project Number 2009-05 Asphalt Paving of 2.4 miles of Crews Road

All contractors bidding this project must be pre-qualified with FDOT in Tallahassee, Florida. Contractors may obtain specifications and bid documents at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063, until May 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. will not be accepted. The Baker County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information call the Baker County Road Department at (904) 275-2373.

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### Project Number 2009-05 Asphalt Paving of 2.4 miles of Crews Road

vs.

**THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS, Thursday, May 7, 2009 Page 9**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 02-2009-CA-0075**

BERNICE RAULISON,  
Plaintiff,

vs.

THE ESTATE OF HOMER E. TURK,  
WENDA L. KING, HERMAN L. TURK,  
KENNETH J. TURK, LARRY H. TURK,  
RALPH W. TURK, RONALD D. TURK,  
AND MICHAEL E. TURK, not known to be  
dead or alive, and all unknown grantees,  
creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through  
or against them, and if dead, their  
unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees,  
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**3 BR, 1 BA** brick home in nice Glen neighborhood. \$850/month. \$500 deposit. 904-613-1255. 5/7p

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**Rachel Crews**



### 3 are finalists

Three members of the Baker High chapter of FFA are finalists for the 2009 Agricultural Proficiency Award program.

Brianna Stewart, John Peterson and Katelyn Lankford were among the more than 200 applicants from throughout Florida who submitted applications within this program.

The three were named finalists within a particular field of agricultural study. Stewart is a finalist in ag service, Peterson in diversified ag production and Lankford in beef production. To reach the finals students must be within the top 5 in the state in their proficiency.

Stewart, Peterson and Lankford are students of Greg Johnson and Jessica Blythe in the FFA program.

These supervised programs are conducted outside of class time that help students develop and apply agricultural knowledge and skills learned inside the classroom.

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**BRING EVERYONE!** - MLS#442392 Bring family, pets and all the neighbors! This property will take care of all. Seller will give an allowance for any painting & updating of house. Price has been drastically reduced. Bring all offers! \$59,900

**THE PLANTATION** - MLS#465612 Beautiful 3BR/2BA home on 2.54 acres in old nursery plantation. Call your realtor. \$247,000

**PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS!** - MLS#416054 Perfect land for your new home to be built. Five acres completely cleared and waiting for you!

**WHAT'S YOUR NEED?** - MLS#468881 4BR 3BA 11.74 acres built in 2006 custom home, virtual tour on-line. Call today! \$263,000

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3

# SPORTS

Thursday, May 7, 2009



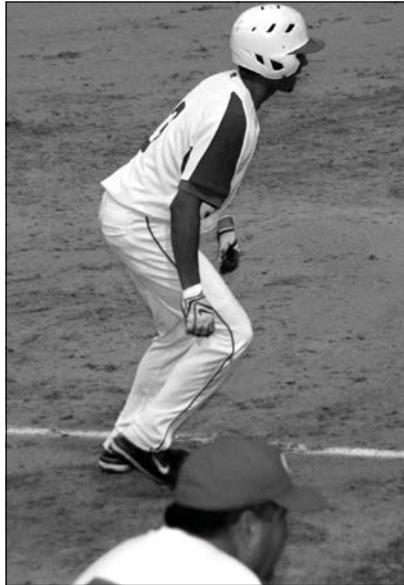
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**Submission Deadlines**- All news and advertising must be submitted to the newspaper office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication, unless otherwise noted or arranged. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

**Sports Notice Submissions**- We welcome your sports submissions for youth league, traveling league or individual athletic achievements. The paper reserves the right to publish submissions.

Page 12

## Baseball team bests Kenny 5-4; Paxon next



At left Chase Bennett leads off third base. At right Brad Griffis pitches against Bishop Kenny Tuesday night.



All season long it's been the big bats that have propelled the Wildcat baseball team to victory after victory.

Teddy Roosevelt was famously quoted as saying, "Walk softly and carry a big stick," but Coach John Staples' Cats were trampling and carrying a huge stick in their 16-0 shut out of the Middleburg Broncos in just five innings on April 30.

The Cats won the district championship by trouncing Middleburg in a game shortened by the slaughter rule after five innings.

Freshman Chris Waddell threw his fourth shutout in a row, only allowing five hits while striking out six.

Travis Tyson got the Cats going offensively by leading off the

game with a solo home run. Chase Bennett and Chad Schroeder also doubled in the leadoff inning to push the Cats out to a 3-0 lead that they never relinquished.

Adam Holland had a pair of doubles for the Cats while Bennett added 5 RBIs.

"This group deserves a district championship and deserves to have their place on the gym wall," said Staples. "We have our work cut out for us on Tuesday but I feel if everyone is healthy, we can't be beaten at this point."

Staples' pride shows as he describes his team's accomplishments.

## Stanton eliminates Cats in regional quarterfinals

Three days after defeating Bishop Kenny on its home turf in the regional quarterfinals, the Lady Wildcat softball team loaded up on the bus to travel to Jacksonville for a semi-final face-off.

This time it was a more subdued trip home as the Cats dropped a heartbreaker 2-1 to Stanton Prep.

Unlike in the Kenny game earlier in the week, the Blue Devils were the ones who jumped on the early lead, going up 2-0 in the first inning.

"They have definitely earned great team status and will go down as the best that has been here, just on the 24 wins and only 4 losses alone."

With the win the Cats moved into the regional playoffs hosting Bishop Kenny May 5.

The Cats jumped out early in that contest as well, going up 4-0 by the third inning, and finishing the Crusaders at 5-4 in the fifth.

The team will travel to Jacksonville May 8 to face Paxon at 7:00 pm.

## 100 on field for spring football

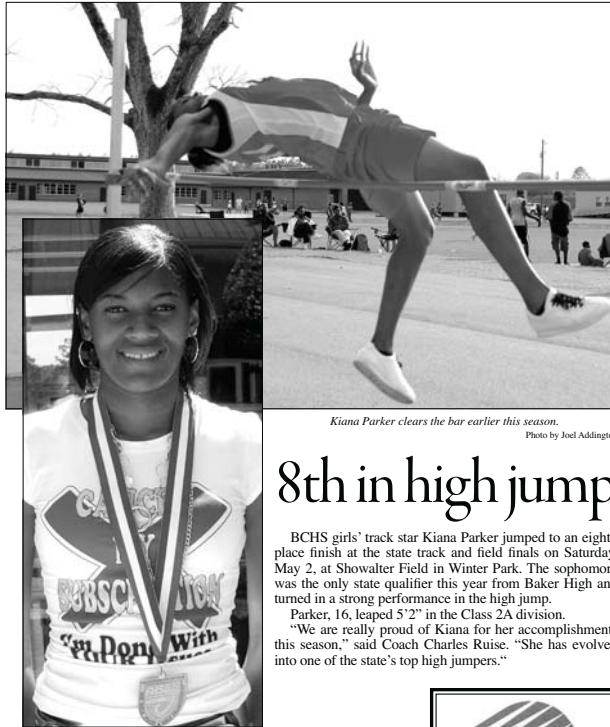
Over 100 students from both the high school and middle school have been lining up for spring football practice this week. According to assistant Coach Ron Lee, the numbers might drop a little when they don pads, but he is hopeful that the numbers will remain high.

The coaches have a lot of skill positions to fill with the graduation of high impact players like Hank Farmer, Greg Williams and Thomas Brady, but Lee believes there is a good crop of players coming up.

"We need to fill the linebacker spot and center as well as defensive backs," said Lee.

The Cats have three players vying for the quarterback position. Mardrekaus Ford and Thomas Sirk will challenge last year's backup Kendrick Sampson for the job behind center.

Last year's quarterback, Darvin Ruise, will see time at running back and safety. Harold Moore will probably figure in as the feature back.



Kiana Parker clears the bar earlier this season.  
Photo by Joel Addington

## 8th in high jump

BCHS girls' track star Kiana Parker jumped to an eighth place finish in the state track and field finals on Saturday, May 2, at Showalter Field in Winter Park. The sophomore was the only state qualifier this year from Baker High and turned in a strong performance in the high jump.

Parker, 16, leaped 5'2" in the Class 2A division.

"We are really proud of Kiana for her accomplishments this season," said Coach Charles Ruisse. "She has evolved into one of the state's top high jumpers."

## Take the hunter safety classes early

Get educated early by attending one of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) free hunter safety courses.

"It's a good idea to take a course early in the year while there are many available. Classes offered late in the year quickly reach student capacity and it may be difficult to enroll in a class close to hunting season," said Steve Robbins, regional hunter safety coordinator.

Some are traditional classes and some are online/CD courses. Interested hunters can check out <http://MyFWC.com/hunter> or call the Lake City Regional Office at (386) 758-0525 for more information.

The classes being offered in Baker County are June 1 through 6 from 6:00-9:00 pm in Macclenny. This is a traditional class and participants must attend all dates in order to receive certification. Students under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

FWC will give the class location to those who pre-register by calling the regional office or online.

All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students need to bring a

pen or pencil and paper. To pre-register, visit the Web site or call the regional office.

Families with young children are encouraged to attend a traditional course. Student interaction with the instructors may assist the child in better understanding the course content, and the instructor can answer student questions,

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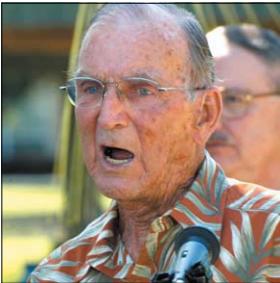
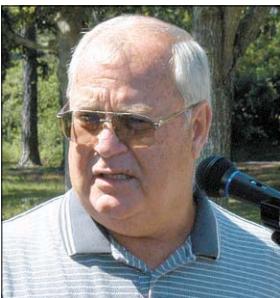
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The 2009 Titan Twelve. Front row from left: Ashley Barrett, Halie White, Brittanry Ruisse, Mikesha Bowden and Leslie Tanner. Back row: Sarah Nichols, Richard Moore, Garrett Lucas, Joshua Wiseman, Corey Cavanaugh, Spencer Norman-Gerard and Taylor Fraser.

PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

## Titan 12 is recognized

BY KELLEY LANNIGAN  
Press Staff

A group of Baker County seniors was honored at the annual Titan Twelve recognition dinner sponsored by the Macclenny Lion's Club April 27.

John Pierson, director of the golf, landscape and forestry management programs at Lake City Community College was the featured speaker.

The Titan Twelve students for 2009, representing outstanding academics and other activities among the BCHS senior class, are Ashley Barrett, Mikesha Bowden, Edwin Cavanaugh, Taylor Fraser, Spencer Gerard, Garrett Lucas, Richard Moore, Sara Nichols, Brittanry Ruisse, Leslie Tanner, Josh Wiseman and Halie White.

Titans Edwin "Corey" Cavanaugh and Halie White are also Baker County High School's 2009 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

The Titans are selected each

year by school staff who feel they represent the students who have portrayed the highest overall standards of academic and personal excellence.

"These are the 'best of the best,'" said BCHS assistant principal Tom Hill. "We have an incredible group this year."

Mr. Hill especially commended parents for the role they played in helping shape their children's success. He urged the students to recognize this fact.

"These people (parents) have given everything to help you come to this point," he said. "They committed their lives to seeing you become successful."

He further urged each student to commit to following and achieving their dreams and desires in the future.

The Lion's Club treated Titans and their families to an enjoyable dinner. After the meal, each Titan was presented with a plaque of recognition and given the opportunity to speak.

## School Calendar

### May 7

District-wide: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. BCHS: "Wizard of Oz", Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. KIS: Art Show & Spaghetti Dinner. WES: Good Morning Show Club Mtg., 8:00 a.m. MES: DIBELS & ThinkLink Testing. PK/K: D.I.B.E.L.S. Testing for Kindergarten

### May 8

District-wide: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. BCHS: "Wizard of Oz", Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Cheerleading Try-outs. KIS: Gateway Drugs presentation by National Guard. WES: Third Grade Sea World Trip. MES: DIBELS & ThinkLink Testing. Ms. Wignall's Mother's Day Play. PK/K: D.I.B.E.L.S. Testing for Kindergarten

### May 9

District-wide: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. BCHS: "Wizard of Oz", Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### May 10

BCHS: "Wizard of Oz", Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

### May 11

BCHS: Westside's "Children Around the World", Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. KIS: Fifth Grade Orientation @ BCMS. WES: First Grade "Children Around the World", BCHS School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Classes of: Hart, Murphy, Sands, Sheridan, Thomas, Warner MES: Book Fair

### May 12

BCHS: Senior Semester Exams 1st/2nd Periods. Westside's "Children Around the World", Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. WES: First Grade "Children Around the World", BCHS School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Classes of: Callahan, Crews, Nunn, Raulerson, Roach, and Richardson. MES: School advisory Council Mtg., Media Center, 8:00 a.m., Book Fair

### May 13

BCHS: Senior Semester Exams 3rd/4th Periods. KIS: "Just Say No!" Club End of Year Party. WES: Merrie Melodies Club Mtg., 8:00 a.m. MES: Book Fair

# Four added to city's 'fame' wall Covington, Ruisse, Roberts and Blakely

Four Baker Countians with decades of involvement with youth sports and recreation were added May 2 to a "wall of fame" at Macclenny's Memorial Park.

All were given the Community Service Award during this, the second year of its existence as the city played "catch-up" after conferring the honor on the late Mike Gazdick in 2008. Two of this year's honorees are also deceased.

They are the late King Ruisse of Margareta, long-time coach at several schools both in the pre- and post-integration eras, and John Blakely of Macclenny, who for years was volunteer coach and umpire in youth sports and became known as the Voice of the Wildcats at Memorial Stadium.

The ceremony presided over by Mayor Gary Dopson also included induction of Tom Covington, a now-legends football and track coach in the 1960s who himself had a stellar athletic career in his native western Kentucky.

Rounding out the honorees was Kenneth Roberts, also of Macclenny, with decades of involvement in Youth League Football and credited with spearheading both fund raising and oversight on improvements at Memorial Stadium just east of the park where the wall

is located.

Names of the four latest inductees have been added to the wall, and the city intends from here forward to add one name each year.

"We are playing 'catch-up' a bit because we feel like these men are deserving of the honor this year," commented Dr. Dopson to the audience of several dozen that gathered in the shade under a fast-warming sun late that morning.

Relatives and ex-players, particularly of Coach Covington and Coach Ruisse, joined family members in brief remarks.

Joy Chapman, who heads up the nomination process for Macclenny, said this week the city seeks to expand the scope of the honorees.

"The first two years, the emphasis has been on sports and recreation but nominees need not be in that area," said Ms. Chapman. "We're looking for men and women who have volunteered over the years in other areas, too."

She added that names are sought throughout the year prior to the selection each spring. To nominate someone, contact her at city hall.

Honorees and their relatives Saturday (clockwise from top left) Patrick Ruisse, son of the late King Ruisse, Kenneth Roberts, Tom Covington and Tonnie Blakely, wife of the late John Blakely.

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## Trails are open at Shoals Park

*St. Mary's Shoals Park opened April 30, roughly five years after the county secured grant funds to purchase the 1600 acres north of Glen St. Mary off Odie Yarborough Rd. County commissioners joined county and Ag Center staff, members of the Davis family (the land's former owner) and the public for a short opening ceremony and lunch under one of the park's five picnic pavilions. "This is a wonderful day," said Bob Guido of the Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation group that helped the county obtain the property. "The opening of Shoals Park is hopefully the next step in creating a regional pathway that will someday reach the national forest." The park's hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, seven days a week. About half of the park's 34-mile trail system is open to the public for horseback riding, hiking and biking.*

PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON



## County prepping for 'swine flu'

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The county health department has been preparing for potential cases of the new H1N1 influenza virus, commonly called the swine flu, that might appear locally, said Director Kerry Dunlavy while addressing the Baker County Commission May 5.

"Right now, we're OK," she said, urging the public to remain calm but vigilant about the highly-publicized virus with global reach.

There have been no confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus reported in Baker County and only five cases have been confirmed statewide.

Ms. Dunlavy said there have been many probable, but unconfirmed, cases reported around the state like the Oak Leaf School student in Clay County that prompted a two-day school closings there.

The protocol for testing possible cases of the H1N1 virus begins locally, then moves to a state laboratory in Jacksonville before heading to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for final confirmation.

The validation process adds a significant lag time to recently reported probable or possible cases of the virus, said Ms. Dunlavy.

"The good thing about it is, it seems not to be too severe," she told the board.

The director has met with school district officials to prepare them for potential H1N1 cases. Ms. Dunlavy said letters will go home with students informing parents about precautions and procedures related to such an occurrence.

"The truth is, it's a pretty mild virus," she said. "It's mostly af-

fected young people and they're getting over it quickly."

The health department has also been monitoring Fraser Hospital, local doctor offices and pharmacies for possible infections of the H1N1 virus; and the department has received 192 doses of the antiviral medication Tamiflu from a federal government stockpile.

"All the pharmacies have them, too," said Ms. Dunlavy. "People don't have to worry."

She urged anyone with flu-like symptoms or respiratory illness to stay home from work or school and consult a physician. Symptoms include coughing, fever, chills, aches and fatigue.

In other business this week:

• The commission decided to use about \$152,000 of \$278,000 left in this year's contingency budget to help fund improvements to Odie Yarborough Road north of Glen St. Mary.

The board awarded the roughly \$1.2-million project to Earthworks, a local contractor. The work includes a safety realignment of the curve west of the CR 125 intersection, turn lanes, resurfacing and drainage upgrades.

The majority of the project, which will prepare the road for a new entrance to the recently opened St. Mary Shoals Park, is almost entirely funded through state grants. The \$152,000 in county funds leaves about \$126,000 in contingency for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends September 31.

The commission also awarded a \$9500 engineering contract to Bailey Bishop & Lane of Lake City for permitting work associated with paving the western end of Reid Stafford Road. The 1.5 miles of paving requires a permit from St. Johns River Water Man-

agement District due to the presence of wetlands. The company was the low-bidder.

• The fate of the roughly 10-acre, county-owned property west SR 121 on the Georgia side of the St. Mary's River remains uncertain.

A proposal from Greg Shepard of Sanderson to lease the land for its yearly taxes, estimated at \$300 for 2009, was presented to the board but not acted upon.

"He's anxious to move ahead," said Mr. Cone, adding that the property represents a liability for the county because it's not insured. That route would require an appraisal, however.

An option suggested by Road Department Superintendent Robert Fletcher, would be donating the acreage to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Cone said he'd investigate that possibility as well as whether a local non-profit group, the Baker Bunch, would be interested in using it.

• The commission was also presented with an ordinance prompted by Commissioner Michael Crews restricting where the roughly 55 sex offenders living in Baker County can reside. Members couldn't vote on the measure yet because it wasn't advertised for a public hearing.

The ordinance, the first of its kind within the county, would prohibit convicted sexual offenders from living within 2500 feet of schools, parks, churches, playgrounds or anywhere children regularly congregate. The prohibition by state statute is 1000 feet. A vote on the ordinance is expected next month.

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