

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

80th Year, Vol. 20 • Winner of 9 state awards for journalism excellence in 2008



Walk-on gets to play against Miami

See page 16

Students, parents have choice to hear Obama

See page 7



Two are arrested growing pot plants in forest

Two men stopped in a remote part of the Osceola National Forest by a federal officer ended up charged with felony possession and growing marijuana on a small plot in the Pinhook Swamp forest near Highway 2 in northwest Baker County.

Officer Jim Ellis of the US Forest Service police said he stopped John Combs, 52, of Glen St. Mary and Marty Mansell, 53, of Macclenny the morning of September 1 on an unmarked road. Officer Ellis said he detected the odor of harvested marijuana plants when he approached the men's pickup truck, and a subsequent search yielded a plastic garbage bag with 41 ounces of the plant.

The plants had been freshly cut, and Mr. Combs initially said Mr. Mansell was not involved and had merely driven him to the area. He then led Officer Ellis to 15 plants averaging seven feet in height. They were under cultivation about 100 yards from where the men were stopped.

Both Mr. Combs and Mr. Mansell, in an interview the next day with sheriff's investigators, admitted to involvement

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Man dies in wreck Saturday

An 18-year-old Glen St. Mary man died after the 2005 Nissan truck he was driving ran off Claude Harvey Road for an unknown reason about midnight September 5.

Neither the victim Steven Hicks, nor his passenger Brandon Waters, 21, of Macclenny were wearing seat belts when the northbound truck traveled into a ditch, struck a culvert and became airborne near Cedar Creek Farms Road.

Both were taken to Fraser Memorial where Mr. Hicks was pronounced dead. He is the county's eleventh traffic fatality of the year. Mr. Waters' injuries were described as minor by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Trooper J.M. Smatt said the crash was alcohol related.

Macclenny set to raise property taxes at Sept. 15 meeting

— See page 4

ICE inmates finally arriving



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Pictured above are the vans that were used to transport the ICE prisoners into the facility the afternoon of September 3. At right are two of the ICE officers that were greeted by Sheriff Joey Dobson upon arrival of the 35 inmates. Two other ICE prisoners had already been delivered earlier in the week. In the photo at far right is the large bus with a US Department of Homeland Security logo that accompanied the vans to the sheriff's complex. Though federal officials were tight-lipped about its purpose, Chief Gerald Gonzalez of the sheriff's department said it may have been used to move the inmates most of the way from South Florida before they were put in the vans for the final leg of the trip.



Initial population is up to 38 as of last week

JOEL ADDINGTON | NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

About two weeks after finalizing an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the newly constructed sheriff's complex accepted its first 38 prisoners from the federal agency last week.

Federal officers had transferred three inmates by September 2

“It’s exciting for us. I’ve been looking forward to this day. It’s a good thing for the county.”

— Paul Whitehead

Secretary,

Baker Correctional Development Corp.

“It’s exciting for us,” said the nonprofit corporation’s secretary Paul Whitehead. “I’ve been looking forward to this day. It’s a good thing for the county.”

The BCDC oversees management of the new jail and repayment of \$45 million bonded to fund its construction. The organization was

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County tax rate is retained To balance budget with \$895,000 from reserves

JOEL ADDINGTON | NEWS EDITOR
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years ago.

It has since dropped to just over \$8 million after balancing this year's budget. Letting the fund dip below \$5 million could be dangerous, Clerk of Court Al Fraser said last month.

“As I look at the numbers, I believe without a doubt we'll have to dig in there again,” said Mr. Crews. “You can only dig in the well so many times before it goes dry.”



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Portion of audience at commission tax hearing on September 3.

Raising property taxes, cutting services or both may be unavoidable in 2010 if gas, sales and other tax revenues distributed by Tallahassee continue declining through 2010. Commissioner Alex Robinson favored a slight property tax increase to offset future drops in state revenue and said last week: “I don't want to find us in a position where we can't take care of Baker County. I fear next year the situation won't be so easy.”

The board's vote to leave the property tax, or millage, rate at \$7.14 per \$1000 of taxable property value was met with applause from the audience members, many of whom took time to shake each commissioner's hand after the meeting was adjourned.

At that rate, a property valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay about \$714 in county taxes. Property owners also pay school board and hospital authority taxes, and for those in Macclenny, city taxes as well.

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Annual fete at Waffle House

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Tom and Joanne Covington were married September 3, 1950. For the last thirty years, the couple has celebrated their wedding anniversary by having a meal at a restaurant that is very special to them.

“The fact that we always celebrate by going to the Waffle House is a joke around Macclenny,” say the Covingtons, who are both retired from the Baker County school district.

Mr. Covington coached the Wildcat football team during the 1950s and 60s and was also a teacher and administrator. Mrs. Covington taught eleventh and twelfth grade. Both are avid Gator fans.

The Waffle House tradition started because their anniversary always seemed to fall on a

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

With regards to President Obama's education speech to students:

71.2% Parents should decide
10.2% It should be mandatory
10.2% Up to the school district
8.5% Teachers should decide

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AccuWeather® Forecast for Baker County

7-Day Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sun and clouds with a couple of t-storms	Some sun with a thunderstorm possible	Some sun with a thunderstorm possible	Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Some sun, then clouds, a t-storm possible	Partly sunny, a shower in the afternoon	Partly sunny and humid
High: 86° Low: 67°	High: 87° Low: 70°	High: 88° Low: 70°	High: 88° Low: 69°	High: 87° Low: 70°	High: 87° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°

Tides

	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 6	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9
First high	2:09 a.m.	2:31 a.m.	2:53 a.m.	3:14 a.m.	3:36 a.m.	4:01 a.m.	4:30 a.m.
First low	7:51 a.m.	8:27 a.m.	9:02 a.m.	9:36 a.m.	10:11 a.m.	10:49 a.m.	11:33 a.m.
Second high	1:46 p.m.	2:24 p.m.	3:01 p.m.	3:38 p.m.	4:17 p.m.	4:59 p.m.	5:49 p.m.
Second low	8:26 p.m.	8:52 p.m.	9:18 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	10:44 p.m.	11:17 p.m.

Jacksonville Beach	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 6	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9
First high	7:41 a.m.	8:23 a.m.	9:04 a.m.	9:43 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	11:04 a.m.	11:48 a.m.
First low	1:53 a.m.	2:31 a.m.	3:06 a.m.	3:41 a.m.	4:16 a.m.	4:53 a.m.	5:33 a.m.
Second high	8:10 p.m.	8:48 p.m.	9:26 p.m.	10:04 p.m.	10:42 p.m.	11:23 p.m.	—
Second low	2:02 p.m.	2:43 p.m.	3:22 p.m.	4:01 p.m.	4:41 p.m.	5:24 p.m.	6:13 p.m.

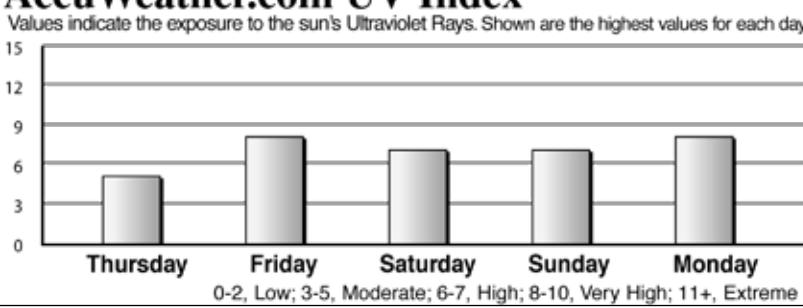
	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 6	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9
Mayport	8:22 a.m.	9:01 a.m.	9:39 a.m.	10:17 a.m.	10:55 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	12:20 p.m.
First low	2:08 a.m.	2:41 a.m.	3:10 a.m.	3:39 a.m.	4:10 a.m.	4:46 a.m.	5:27 a.m.
Second high	8:44 p.m.	9:20 p.m.	9:56 p.m.	10:32 p.m.	11:11 p.m.	11:52 p.m.	—
Second low	2:11 p.m.	2:48 p.m.	3:23 p.m.	3:59 p.m.	4:37 p.m.	5:20 p.m.	6:11 p.m.

	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 6	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9
St. Augustine	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 6	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9
First high	7:47 a.m.	8:29 a.m.	9:10 a.m.	9:49 a.m.	10:29 a.m.	11:10 a.m.	11:54 a.m.
First low	1:55 a.m.	2:33 a.m.	3:08 a.m.	3:43 a.m.	4:18 a.m.	4:55 a.m.	5:35 a.m.
Second high	8:16 p.m.	8:54 p.m.	9:32 p.m.	10:10 p.m.	10:48 p.m.	11:29 p.m.	—
Second low	2:04 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	3:24 p.m.	4:03 p.m.	4:43 p.m.	5:26 p.m.	6:15 p.m.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise Thursday	7:06 a.m.
Sunset Thursday	7:49 p.m.
Moonrise Thursday	7:11 p.m.
Moonset Thursday	6:06 a.m.
Full	Last
Sep 4	Sep 11
Sept New	Sep 18
Sep 26	First

AccuWeather.com UV Index™



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Almanac

Jacksonville week ending Monday, Aug 31.

Temperature
High/Low for the week 92°/70°
Normal high/low 89°/72°
Average temperature 79.5°
Normal average temperature 80.0°
Precipitation
Total for the week 2.78"
Total for the month 7.06"
Total for the year 43.99"
Normal for the month 6.87"
Normal for the year 35.60"

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

September 3 - September 9

Temperatures



Precipitation



Solunar Table

The solunar 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
Sep 3	10:36 a.m.	4:25 a.m.	10:58 p.m.	4:47 p.m.
Sep 4	11:16 a.m.	5:06 a.m.	11:37 p.m.	5:27 p.m.
Sep 5	11:57 a.m.	5:46 a.m.	—	6:07 p.m.
Sep 6	12:17 a.m.	6:28 a.m.	12:39 p.m.	6:49 p.m.
Sep 7	1:02 a.m.	7:13 a.m.	1:24 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Sep 8	1:50 a.m.	8:01 a.m.	2:13 p.m.	8:24 p.m.
Sep 9	2:41 a.m.	8:53 a.m.	3:06 p.m.	9:18 p.m.

River Levels

Statistics are for Jacksonville through 7 a.m. Monday

	Flood stage	Monday	24-hour change
St. John's at Jacksonville	—	10.41	+0.06
St. Marks at Newport	7.0	6.42	-0.01
Aucilla at Lamont	9.0	4.60	-0.48
Santa Fe at Fort White	24.0	21.69	+0.01
Suwannee at White Springs	77.0	54.85	-0.33

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First wave of ICE inmates arrive at jail

From page 1

formed in 2007, but planning for the 512-bed facility began as early as 2002.

Six years later the bonds were sold and construction began. The project was completed and the sheriff's department, emergency management services, dispatchers and local inmates moved into the complex last June. Since then it's housed about 100 local inmates and a small group of prisoners from other federal law enforcement agencies.

"I've been anxious about getting to this day," said Sheriff Dobson, who along with other county officials have been eager to see cells at the complex occupied and federal dollars start to trickle in.

Since that roughly \$84 per day per prisoner is expected to repay the bonds, the slow churning of ICE inmates. "It changes the complexity of dealing with them on an everyday basis."

More than 350 cells remain empty, and it's unclear when the new jail might reach full capacity.

"It's going to be slowly," said an ICE supervisor from Jacksonville who asked not to be identified. "Once you go into this, it's like making jambalaya — you add the rice, let it cook, then the beans; you take your time."

In the view of BCDC president Todd Knabb, it's good the facility didn't fill up immediately. "It gives them a chance to get all the kinks worked out," he said.

According to a 10-year cash flow forecast for the BCDC, the jail's projected income won't reach \$15.6 million annually until 2013. That figure represents how much revenue would be generated if all 512 beds were occupied continuously for

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome, but must contain the signature of the writer, a telephone number and city of residence. Letters must reflect opinions and statements on issues of current interest to the general public. The newspaper reserves the right to reject any material which in the newspaper's judgement does not meet standards of publication.

CONTACT US

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Hypocritical, ridiculous...'

Last week's letter from molester's sister

Dear Editor:

I am usually not one to write letters to the paper, but I just couldn't let the letter you published last week titled 'Private matter into circus' by Heather Cranford [Ludwig] pass without pointing out how hypocritical and flat out ridiculous it was.

She was commenting on the front page article in the August 26 edition about her brother Micah Cranford being sentenced for child molestation. Apparently she feels the newspaper was wrong and smeared her family for reporting the fact that her brother was a good kid gone bad. I guess she feels this is not newsworthy.

I want to thank the newspaper for pointing out the fact that he was a "good kid" based on his grades, Boy Scouts, etc., and turned out to be a predator.

That is the story. Parents can't trust anyone anymore with their children.

I found nothing in that article to be a smear on the Cranford family. The only people smearing their name are their own children.

The writer asked, "What has this family done to hurt anyone in the Baker County community?" Maybe she should ask that same question to the parents of the two small children who were molested!

I would understand Ms. Cranford's anger if *The Press* made it front page news that her brother was picked up for underage drinking, speeding, shoplifting or some other dumb teenage decision that many make. But this was child molestation! This is not some petty crime.

The writer seemed so focused on clearing her family name and it sickens me that she has no remorse for the crime that had been committed. Does she have any concern for the lives of the victims and families that have been ruined?

Lastly, I cannot believe Ms. Cranford had the nerve to bring God into this by writing, "The day you meet your maker, may He have mercy on your soul."

The last time I checked, God does not think too highly of those who hurt children. [Matthew 18:6 *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*]

Ms. Cranford had better save her prayers for those who need it.

Donna Johnson
Macclenny

You're a huge disappointment

Dear Editor:

A member of my family was "life flighted" recently from the Baldwin Truck Stop to Shands Jacksonville. The cost of this necessary, life-saving flight of 21 miles was over \$13,000.

I moved here from Kentucky six years ago. In Christian County (Hopkinsville), each household pays \$60 a year for Life Flight, whether they use the service or not. The amount covers family members in the household.

The county commissions of Baker, Duval, Nassau, Clay, St. Johns, Union and Bradford should get together with the Life Flight (and Trauma One) people and see if something like this is feasible.

It takes money to buy or lease these helicopters, outfit them with medical equipment and staff them with a crew that includes a registered nurse. Then there are maintenance costs.

If enough households would pay \$50 or \$75 a year for this service, people would not face the expense of \$5000 to \$15,000 per flight.

No one knows in the coming year if your household will need Life Flight to help save the life of you or your children.

James Curry
Glen St. Mary

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Unfathomable slayings

THE BACK PORCH

Kelley Lannigan

where multiple family members were buried at one time and I hope I never have that experience.

At funerals, we fully expect the presence of one casket. On the rarest of occasions, perhaps two. But seven caskets, bearing members of the same family is out of the realm of experience for most.

I truly sympathized with the preacher, Danny Stilwell, on whose shoulders the task of conducting that service fell. It had to be exceedingly difficult.

For average, normal folks, the mind of a killer is a domain that cannot be navigated. They don't have the frame of reference to do so.

I occasionally visit the Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny because two of my friends are buried there. Family members of other friends lay in rest there as well. I didn't know them in life, but knowing their sisters, brothers, cousins, sons or daughters creates a connection for me.

When I visit and walk among the headstones I recognize names and feel I am among extended family. I took flowers out to Woodlawn on Sunday and couldn't help but think of the Brunswick situation, trying to imagine how I would feel.

I have never been to a funeral

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Women react differently to what we call 'accidents'

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

Call this one "The Difference Between Men and Women – Part 960."

This topic is not something that I've just noticed recently, but something I've never written about. It's about accidents.

Not accidents of the auto variety, though I'm sure that they count, too, but the everyday household variety. Men and women just seem to have different opinions about accidents and I really don't know why.

Here's what I've noticed.

Men know that accidents are out there just waiting to happen. Women aren't willing to admit

their very existence.

When I drop something, my wife always asks, "What are you doing?" as if I'm actually doing anything other than dropping something. It's not as if I can answer, "I wanted to see if it would bounce."

Years ago, back in the dim recesses of our marriage I was moving some stuff off the sink and dropped a cut glass dish in the sink and it broke. In my mind I was saying "Dad gum it, I broke that cut glass thing."

"What was that?" Of course she knew the answer and followed it up with, "What did you break?"

"This dad gum cut glass thing slipped out of my hands." Meaning – it was an accident.

All men understand these kind of accidents. They also understand the ramifications. Because when we say "The dad gum thing slipped," women translate this as "I wonder what would happen if I hit this dad gum cut glass thing with a claw hammer?"

"What cut glass thing?" She hits the kitchen with the speed of a jungle cheetah. For me, escape is impossible.

She tears up at the sight of the shattered glass in the sink. "That was my Granny's cut glass candy dish."

Back to the translation machine. In a man's head that translates to "You are in more trouble than can be believed. You will hear about this for the rest of your marriage every time you break something because I am a woman and I don't believe in accidents. I believe in claw hammers."

You might wonder what brought up this subject?

We were driving home in Kelley's van from UNF on Thursday night. Our son's band had just played at The Boathouse and we were on our way home.

I remembered the Jaguars were playing their last pre-season game versus the Redskins, so I thought I might tune it in for the ride home.

I pushed the power button for

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CITY OF MACCLENNY

Tax increase on the way

Could mean additional \$19,000

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

In an effort to avoid a \$60,000 hit contingency funds for the coming year, the Macclenny City Commission is set to consider raising property taxes while cutting in half a proposed raise for city employees.

The board unanimously approved dropping the raise from 3 percent down to 1.5 percent and setting the property tax rate at \$3.60 per \$1000 of taxable value during its meeting the evening of September 8.

Final adoption of the 2009-10 budget and accompanying property tax, or millage, rate will be September 15 at 5:00 pm in City Hall. The new fiscal year begin October 1.

At the proposed tax rate, the owner of a property valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay approximately \$360 in city taxes. The millage rate would also generate about \$819,000 for city coffers, or roughly \$19,000 more than this year. "It would give us a slight cushion in these lean times," City Manager Gerald Dopson told the board.

The extra revenue could pump up the \$6.2-million budget's contingency, which stood at \$124,000 in the latest proposal.

"I don't feel comfortable with \$120,000 in contingency," said the manager.

Mr. Dopson went on to explain how employee raises amounted to approximately \$63,000 in additional personnel costs, and how each percent would cost about \$21,000.

The city employs 43 people.

"I want to give the employees a pay raise, but I'm thinking 2 percent and using that \$21,000 to help with contingency," said Commissioner Vernon Bennett.

"I was thinking more like 1 percent, to cover the cost of living [increase]," added Mayor Gary Dopson.

Commissioner Phil Rhoden estimated that by cutting the raise in half to 1.5 percent and increasing the current property tax rate, \$3.48 per \$1000 of taxable value, contingency funds could be boosted to \$177,000. This year's budget included about \$184,000 in contingency.

"It puts us almost back to where we were," he said.

One city resident, realtor Dennis Collins, voiced opposition to the property tax increase, particularly during a recession.

"Everybody's hurting," he said. "I know people that are taking cuts in pay to keep their jobs."

Commissioner Bennett responded by citing the hard work of city staff.

"I can't hardly get to sleep, not giving them something," he said. "They're not getting by as easy as some people might think they're getting by."

City workers are also facing a 10 percent increase in their health insurance premiums, even with a reduction in benefits.

The premiums are split evenly

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between employees and the city's employer contribution, added Gerald Dopson.

In other business, the board heard from downtown property and business owners about expanding the upgrades on College Street — lighting, landscaping and brick-rimmed sidewalks — through more of the city's core.

The city would need to borrow an estimated \$250,000 to begin work immediately.

At 4 percent interest over 8 years that would cost about

\$36,570 a year.

The city already has more than \$5 million in debt related to previous water, sewer, garbage and street projects.

"It's big money," said *The Baker County Press* owner Jim McGauley. "I think it would kind of foolish right now."

Ed Barber, another downtown property owner, hoped the city would start the project as soon as possible, while materials are still cheap. "That's the kind of look we'd like to have."

Burglary at Council on Aging

Video game equipment and cash were taken from the Baker County Council on Aging during the night August 31 in an apparent burglary.

When employees came to work that morning, they found a rear door ajar and a laptop computer in its case lying in an unpaved parking area behind the building on US 90 in downtown Macclenny. There was no sign of forced entry.

CoA director Mary Baxla said a video game console, video game and \$240 were missing from inside the building. Value of the equipment was an additional \$450.

Deputy Shawn Bishara said the laptop may have been left behind during a hasty exit from the

premises.

In another commercial burglary, someone cut the locks on two garages at Secure Storage on SR 121 south between August 30 and September 2. The locks were later found in a nearby wooded area.

Frank Cohenour, who reported the burglary, said the spaces were leased by tenants with addresses in St. George, GA and Idaho. He was attempting to contact them to determine what if anything had been taken.

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BOGO offer effective through September 17, 2009. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Selection may vary by store.

South Sixth Street • Macclenny

Shoplifter flees another arrested

Two deputies assigned to court duty arrested a Macclenny woman as she attempted to leave the Walmart Supercenter the afternoon of September 3 after an alleged shoplifting accomplice got away.

Sakara Albritton, 20, and the second woman were observed by a security employee acting suspiciously, and police were told the unidentified woman was concealing merchandise. The report did not state the method of concealment, nor a monetary value of the stolen items.

The security worker stopped the first woman as she attempted to leave the store about 1:00 pm, but she ran to a vehicle and drove off. Ms. Albritton attempted to leave also, but was stopped and handcuffed by Sgt. Charles Ross and Rodney Driggers, who are assigned to courthouse security but were at the store during a lunch break.

Ms. Albritton is charged with petty theft, indicating the merchandise was valued at less than \$300.

In other cases:



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Joanne and Tom Covington enjoy their 59th anniversary at the Macclenny Waffle House.

Anniversary fetes at the Waffle House

From page 1

night when they were attending either a Wildcat or Gator game.

"We wanted to celebrate by going out to dinner, but the main part of the evening was occupied by sports," said Mr. Covington. "By the time we'd finish up, Waffle House would be about the only place open, so wherever we were, that's where we would go."

The couple came to look forward to their late night celebration over waffles, bacon and coffee.

"We've always been the best of friends and have done everything together. People tease us about being joined at the hip," said Mrs. Covington. "If you're with your best friend, doing the simplest thing becomes special."

The Covingtons met as ninth graders in Murray, Kentucky. Both attended Murray State University and married after Mr. Covington served in the military.

His high school coaching jobs ultimately brought him to work at the high school in Bell, Florida, about forty miles from Gainesville.

They became Gator fans at that time. Mr. Covington left Bell to become Baker County High School's coach in 1957.

The Covingtons quickly grew to love Macclenny.

"I'm not a big city person," says Mr. Covington. "I didn't like big city attitudes. I didn't find that in Baker County. I didn't have to put up with disrespectful students."

He says he certainly kept the boys in line, but coaching was like being a father, too. He loved being able to get to know the people in the community, something

working in a big city school didn't lend itself to.

For Mr. Covington, a rewarding experience was to coach two generations. A football player would graduate and then later down the road, his son would come along and he'd coach him too.

"After we moved to Macclenny, anything we ever did outside of school had to revolve around either the Wildcats or the Gators playing," said Mrs. Covington. "That's the way it was."

Mr. Covington suffered a heart attack in 1987, ending his coaching career. He then became an assistant principal and later the school district's property chief.

He admits he took his involuntary absence from the field hard. After recovering from the heart attack, it was a year before he could be a spectator at a Wildcat game.

"It nearly broke my heart not to be able to coach the boys, but I had no choice. I eventually was able to enjoy just watching a game, though," he said.

The Covingtons still go to Wildcat games and this year marks the 55th season they will be in the stands to watch the Florida Gators do their thing.

Because they have always enjoyed doing things together, they share the same hobbies. They enjoy refinishing antique furniture together, boating and for many years both practiced taxidermy.

"We were fortunate to land in Baker County," said Mrs. Covington. "It's been a joyful ride. I'm with the person I was meant to be with. We couldn't have asked for a more blessed marriage. And Go Gators!"

Alleged pistol pointing

In case of road rage

The state attorney's office will decide whether a Glen St. Mary man will be charged with brandishing a pistol at a truck driver he claims ran him off CR 23-D north of Macclenny the morning of September 2.

Deputy Tony Norman said he stopped a Chevrolet pickup driven by Hubert Stalnaker, 66, when the truck driver called police with the license number shortly after the altercation about 11:30.

The complainant, Kenneth Gunter, 48, of Jacksonville said he was westbound on 23-D and veered into the opposite lane to avoid an overhanging branch. Shortly after, he was confronted by the suspect who briefly pointed the pistol at him, then replaced it in a holster.

When questioned, Mr. Stalnaker admitted to involvement in the altercation, but denied pulling the pistol. He consented to a search of a tool box where he indicated his pistol was stored, and Deputy Norman retrieved a loaded .32 caliber magnum revolver. It was confiscated as evidence.

The officer also learned Mr. Stalnaker has a concealed weapon permit. He could be charged with aggravated assault.

In other complaints:

- Leroy Spatcher, 50, accused George Church, 47 of picking him up by the neck and waist, then throwing him to the ground about noon on September 1.

Several witnesses to the incident affirmed Mr. Spatcher's version of events just off Barber Rd. in Macclenny. Mr. Spatcher, who Deputy Brad Dougherty noted smelled strongly of alcohol when questioned, said his cousin Mr. Church had given him a ride home and denied provoking him.

The accused gave a different version, telling the deputy his cousin initially said he would pay for the ride home then be-

gan cursing him and refusing to pay anything. Mr. Church said his cousin was intoxicated and possibly taking drugs, and he slammed him to the ground when he thought Mr. Spatcher was reaching for a knife.

Another employee at Northeast Florida State Hospital has filed a criminal complaint against a patient for attacking her.

Livia Ruise, 42, of Glen told

Deputy Randy Davis a 24-year-old male patient struck her on the shoulder late the morning of August 31. She reported the incident September 4 on the advice of a supervisor in an effort to transfer the patient because of violent behavior.

Ms. Ruise also said she was pursuing a charge of battery against the patient.

Licenses suspended

The sheriff's department arrested four motorists the past week for driving on suspended licenses, one of the arrests the result of a traffic stop for a seat belt violation.

Deputy Shawn Bishara said he stopped a southbound GMC Yukon on SR 121 late the morning of September 6 because a female passenger was sitting on the lap of a male passenger and was not restrained by a seat belt.

He learned via a computer check that the vehicle's driver Terry Burnham, 33, of Glen St. Mary had eleven prior license suspensions.

Other violators include:

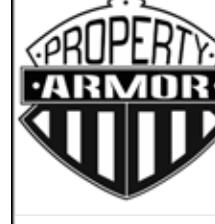
- John Davis, 59, of Glen with a license suspended as an habitual offender. He was stopped by Deputy Larry Clark about 1:20 the morning of September 2 on Taber Blvd. His 1997 Honda was swerving in the roadway, and Mr. Davis was also ticketed for having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle.

- Charles Walker, 20, of Macclenny, had four prior suspensions. Deputy Bishara stopped him in a 1998 Ford near his residence on Lewis St. just before midnight on September 4 because the license tag had been stolen in Duval County.

Mr. Walker was also ticketed for having no insurance and the stolen tag.

- Robert Curran, 47, of Glen, driving a 1988 Ford southbound on South 6th in Macclenny with no tag lights the evening of September 4.

A computer check revealed Mr. Curran's license had seven prior suspensions.



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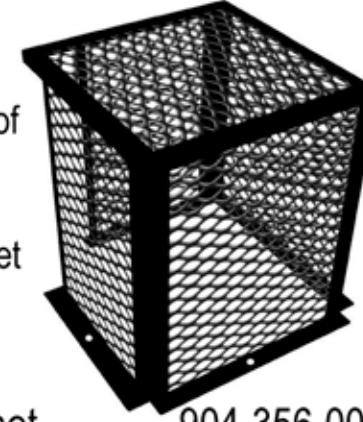
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WADE RAULERSON HONDA
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WADE RAULERSON HONDA IS LOOKING FOR RELIABLE PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER PAYMENTS ON
\$0 DOWN AVAILABLE

2001 HONDA ACCORD
NICEST IN TOWN, #FH8184A.....\$39 PER MO.

2002 FORD F150
SHOWROOM NEW, #90642A.....\$49 PER MO.

2003 SATURN ION
LOW MILES, #91193A.....\$59 PER MO.

2003 HONDA ELEMENT
WOW, #M20A.....\$69 PER MO.

2004 HONDA CIVIC
HATES GAS, #91255A.....\$89 PER MO.

1995 MITSUBISHI 3000 GT
SHOWROOM NEW, #FH8211.....\$89 PER MO.

2003 HONDA ODYSSEY
FAMILY FUN, #FH8073A.....\$93 PER MO.

2007 HONDA SHADOW
CHROMED UP, #91153.....\$99 PER MO.

2000 LEXUS RX300
LOW, LOW MILES, #91146A.....\$117 PER MO.

2005 HONDA ACCORD HYBRID
MPG SAVER, #91248A.....\$121 PER MO.

2004 DODGE 2500
MINT CONDITION, #91248A.....\$129 PER MO.

2005 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
LOADED, #FH8321.....\$134 PER MO.

2003 HONDA CR-V
LOW MILES, #FH8798.....\$147 PER MO.

2003 HONDA CIVIC
HATES GAS, #FH8015.....\$167 PER MO.

2006 DODGE DAKOTA CREW
SUPER NICE, #FH8196.....\$169 PER MO.

2007 FORD MUSTANG
RIDE IN STYLE, #FH8050.....\$179 PER MO.

2006 MAZDA 3
ZOOM ZOOM, #FH8205.....\$179 PER MO.

2006 HONDA CIVIC SI
FAST FAST, #FH8208.....\$189 PER MO.

2003 BMW 325
ONLY 50K MILES, #FH5478.....\$189 PER MO.

2008 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS
LUXURY, #FH8153.....\$199 PER MO.

2008 HONDA CIVIC
HYBRID BABY, #FH8170.....\$209 PER MO.

2005 ACURA MDX
MINT, #FH8123A.....\$218 PER MO.

2006 DODGE RAM
LOADED, #FH8945.....\$227 PER MO.

2008 CHEVROLET IMPALA
SUNROOF, NICE, #FH8062.....\$237 PER MO.

2007 NISSAN PATHFINDER
SHOWROOM NEW, #90475A.....\$237 PER MO.

2005 HONDA PILOT
WOW, #FH8978.....\$237 PER MO.

2006 CADILLAC CTS
CADILLAC STYLE, #FH8166.....\$239 PER MO.

2006 NISSAN MAXIMA
LOADED, #FH8080.....\$249 PER MO.

2007 GMC YUKON
LOADED, #91181B.....\$249 PER MO.

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ONLY 50K MILES, #FH5478.....	\$189 PER MO.
2008 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	\$199 PER MO.
LUXURY, #FH8153.....	\$199 PER MO.
2008 HONDA CIVIC	\$209 PER MO.
HYBRID BABY, #FH8170.....	\$209 PER MO.
2005 ACURA MDX	\$218 PER MO.
MINT, #FH8123A.....	\$218 PER MO.
2006 DODGE RAM	\$227 PER MO.
LOADED, #FH8945.....	\$227 PER MO.
2008 CHEVROLET IMPALA	\$237 PER MO.
SUNRO	

Domestic battery arrest Tried to force wife into vehicle

The sheriff's department arrested a 23-year-old Macclenny man September 6 and charged him with domestic violence battery for attempting to force his wife into his pickup and prevent her from getting into another one.

Matthew Weichman was charged after Deputy Daniel Nichols questioned him at the residence of his mother of Clete Harvey Rd. several hours after the incident.

Lisa Weichman, 22, told police she left the residence about 11:30 that morning on foot following an argument. She admitted striking her husband in an attempt to fend him off, and said he then struck her and pushed her to the ground when she refused to get into his vehicle. He also attempted to pull her from another vehicle that stopped to assist her.

The occupants of the second vehicle, John and Cassandra Wheeler of Macclenny, corroborated Ms. Weichman's version of events.

Later that day, the accused's mother Debbie Brown told Deputy Brad Dougherty she suspects Ms. Weichman is neglecting or

abusing the couple's two children, ages 1 and 2. Her complaint was referred to the Department of Children and Families.

The wife sought treatment at Fraser Hospital for a hand injury. Deputy Nichols noted her arms and face had abrasions consistent with her complaint.

In other incidents, a criminal complaint for domestic battery was filed September 6 against April Goff, 28, of Glen St. Mary for allegedly teaming up with another woman and beating her boyfriend Jeffrey Cates, 24, also of Glen. The couple has a child together.

Mr. Cates told Deputy Jeffery Shouse he had been drinking at the beach with the accused and Bethany McCrary, 29, also of Glen, and they struck him repeatedly in the face during an argument on the way back to Baker County about 2:00 am.

The boyfriend said the women again struck him when he went to Ms. McCrary's residence about 3:40 to retrieve his motorcycle. The officer interviewed him at the Fraser Hospital emergency room where he went for treatment of facial abrasions.

Ms. Goff was arrested after

questioning, and a criminal complaint for simple battery was filed against Ms. McCrary.

Another complaint alleges Joshua Geiger, 19, of Macclenny violated a domestic violence order by showing up at an East Boulevard residence in Macclenny on September 3. His estranged girlfriend Tiffany Canaday, 19, was at the address.

A witness told Deputy Kevin Jenkins that Mr. Geiger drove into a rear yard and spun his tires before leaving.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NEFSH

Arrests in the same neighborhood for unruly intoxication

Sheriff's deputies were in the same north Macclenny neighborhood on successive nights last week and made arrests for disorderly intoxication.

Deputy Matt Sigers arrested Brandon Stanley, 21, after he ignored a warning to stay away from the residence of Jeremy Rhoden. The deputy first went to the scene September 1 about 4:45 am on a disturbance call after Mr. Stanley broke out a window, then returned on a similar call shortly thereafter.

This time, Mr. Stanley was cursing loudly and refused to calm himself.

The following morning about 12:45, Deputy Jeffrey Shouse was back in the same block to arrest Linette Barron, 36, on a similar charge. She was yelling loudly and cursing inside the residence of Ralph Self, and refused to calm herself.

Ms. Barron was also charged with resisting arrest without violence.

In other cases:

• Jason Leonard, 18, of Macclenny was arrested inside the Country Club Lounge about 1:40 am on September 5 for underage drinking, fraudulent use of an ID and misrepresenting his age.

Deputy Shouse said he was acting on a tip when he confronted the suspect drinking inside the bar, and Mr. Leonard initially showed him a driver's license belonging to Christopher Brantley, who is 23. Mr. Leonard said he stole the license during a previous visit to the lounge off SR 121.

Two bartenders at the same location were arrested last month for selling to a minor.

• A warrant was issued for the arrest of David Zipperer, 19, of Glen, who fled from a residence off Bertha Mae Harris Rd. the afternoon of September 4 when a deputy showed up to serve two other warrants.

Deputy Daniel Nichols said Mr. Zipperer ran south from a rear door after the officer asked his brother Wesley Zipperer if he could search the premises. He is wanted on two counts of failure to appear in court, and the latest warrant is for resisting arrest.

The brother initially told Deputy Nichols the suspect was not there.

Speeder captured; wanted for felonies

A Tallahassee man stopped for speeding on Interstate 10 about midnight on September 6 turned up wanted in Georgia on two counts of felony fraud.

Craig Murphy, 24, ran briefly from police after he was stopped in an eastbound 2000 Buick that was clocked going 87 mph. Deputy Patrick McGauley said a computer check revealed the outstanding warrants and that Mr. Murphy was driving on a suspended license.

The officer said the suspect took off running south while he was being questioned, then parallel to a right-of-way fence about 100 yards before he was tackled in about two feet of water. Deputies McGauley and Larry Clark, along with FHP Trooper J.M. Smatt, struggled briefly with the suspect before he was subdued and handcuffed.

Mr. Murphy was taken to county jail to await extradition to Georgia, and was charged with the license violation and resisting arrest.

Three other occupants of the Buick from Tallahassee and Apopka, FL were not charged.

The same officer stopped another west Florida motorist on the interstate late on August 31 and charged him with drunk driving.

Deputy McGauley said he first observed Christopher Wilson, 44, of Pensacola make a u-turn on CR 229 before entering the eastbound entrance ramp about 10:15. The 2004 Mercury driven by Mr. Wilson weaved out of its proper lane both on the ramp and after it entered the interstate.

The driver smelled strongly of alcohol and his motions were unsteady. He refused to submit to field sobriety tests, or later at county jail, to breath or blood tests.

Mr. Wilson was also ticketed for an improper u-turn and failure to stay in a single lane.

• Jeremy Jenkins, 25, of Glen St. Mary was arrested just after midnight September 5 for reckless driving and fleeing police in downtown Macclenny.

Deputy McGauley said the 2003 Chevrolet pickup driven by Mr. Jenkins failed to stay in its lane while northbound on South 6th St. and struck the curb four times. The vehicle initially failed to stop when the deputy activated both lights and siren, and was pulled over near US 90 and 5th St.

Scout round-up

A round-up for Cub Scout Pack 555, Boy Scout Troop 150 and Venturing Crew 150 will be held at 7:00 pm on September 15 in the cafeteria of Macclenny Elementary.

For more details, contact Kathy Lilly, committee chair, at 653-1953.

Library closed

The Emily Taber Library in Macclenny will be closed September 10-12 and will re-open September 14 due to ongoing construction. Books can be dropped off in the door slot.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 02-2008-CA-00018

THE CIT GROUP/CONSUMER FINANCE, INC., Plaintiff,
vs.

JUDY A. ULLO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JUDY A. ULLO; 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, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; THOMAS R. RHODEN; TINA M. RHODEN; UNKNOWN TENANT#1 IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT#2 IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

(Please publish in THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 18, 2008 and entered in Case No. 02-2008-CA-000118, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. THE CIT GROUP/CONSUMER FINANCE, INC., is Plaintiff and JUDY A. ULLO; THOMAS R. RHODEN; TINA M. RHODEN; UNKNOWN TENANT#1 IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY M/K/A MICHAEL ULLO, are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the EAST DOOR of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 East Macclenny Avenue, 1st Floor, Macclenny, FL 32063, 11:00 a.m., on the 22nd day of SEPTEMBER, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 3 OF BLOCK 1 OF "JERRY W. THOMAS SUBDIVISION" AS PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 42 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL: BEGIN AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3 IN BLOCK 1 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE S. 88°19'40" E., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 3; 117.70 FEET TO THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF BARBARA'S CIRCLE; THENCE SOUTHERLY, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE WITH A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE LEFT, WITH A RADIUS OF 20.10 FEET, AND WITH A CHORD BEARING S. 1°40'34" W., A DISTANCE OF 20.10 FEET AND REVEN TENCE N. 78°38'18" W., 119.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

IMPORTANT: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063, Phone No. 904-259-8103 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading.

Dated this 14th day of August, 2009.

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

Van Ness Law Firm, P.A.
123 E. Newport Center Drive Suite #110
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442
Phone (954) 571-2031
Fax (954) 571-2033
9/3-9/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 02-2008-CA-0196

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.

JAMES I. STRICKLAND A/K/A JAMES L. STRICKLAND; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JAMES I. STRICKLAND A/K/A JAMES L. STRICKLAND; SONYA STRICKLAND; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above styled cause, in the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida, described as:

LOTS 15 AND 16, CONFEDERATE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES 81 THROUGH 86, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To include a:
2001 Sweetwater VIN SHGA6871A 82026361
2001 Sweetwater VIN SHGA6871B 82026245
A/K/A
12871 MUDLAKE ROAD
GLEN SAINT MARY, FL 32063

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, East door of the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida 32063 at 11:00 AM, on September 22, 2009.

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF August, 2009.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 24th day of August, 2009.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
By: JAMIE CREWS
Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
Law Offices of Daniel C. Consuegra
9204 King Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 33619-1328
Phone: 813-915-8660
Attorneys for Plaintiff

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the ASA Coordinator no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings. If hearing impaired, please call (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (voice), via Florida Relay Service.

NOTICE TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Board of Commissioners will receive written, sealed bids for the following:

"PEST AND RODENT CONTROL SERVICES"

All bids must be sealed and have "Pest & Rodent Control Services" clearly marked on the outside of the bid packet. All bids must be received by 12:00pm, September 21, 2009. Bid may be mailed or delivered to the Baker County Administration Building located at 55 North 3rd Street, Macclenny, FL 32063. For more information please call (904) 259-3565.

Specifics and pertinent information such as locations for service must be picked up at the County Commissioners Office at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063.

The Baker County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

9/3-9/10

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting the Motion to Reset Foreclosure Sale dated August 31, 2009, entered in Civil Case No. 2008CA000054 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for BAKER COUNTY, MACCLENNY, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at THE EAST DOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE at the BAKER County Courthouse located at 339 EAST MACCLENNY AVE. 1ST FLOOR in MACCLENNY, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 29th day of September, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 3, CYPRESS POINTE, UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 90 THROUGH 92, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2009.

AL FRASER
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: JAMIE CREWS
Deputy Clerk

INVITATION TO BID NEW 5 TON HEAT PUMPPLIT SYSTEM

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will be accepting written sealed bids until 3:00pm on September 17, 2009 for the following: Removal of existing system (air handler & heat pump) and install One (1) New 5 ton heat pump split system including air handler for the Baker County Agriculture Building (Auditorium) and replace approximately 80 feet of existing duct work with new round flex duct.

All work must be performed by a licensed person and be in compliance with state and local codes.

Please submit bids to: Baker County Board of Commissioners, Attention Sara Little at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever.

9/3-9/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 09-CA-003

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.

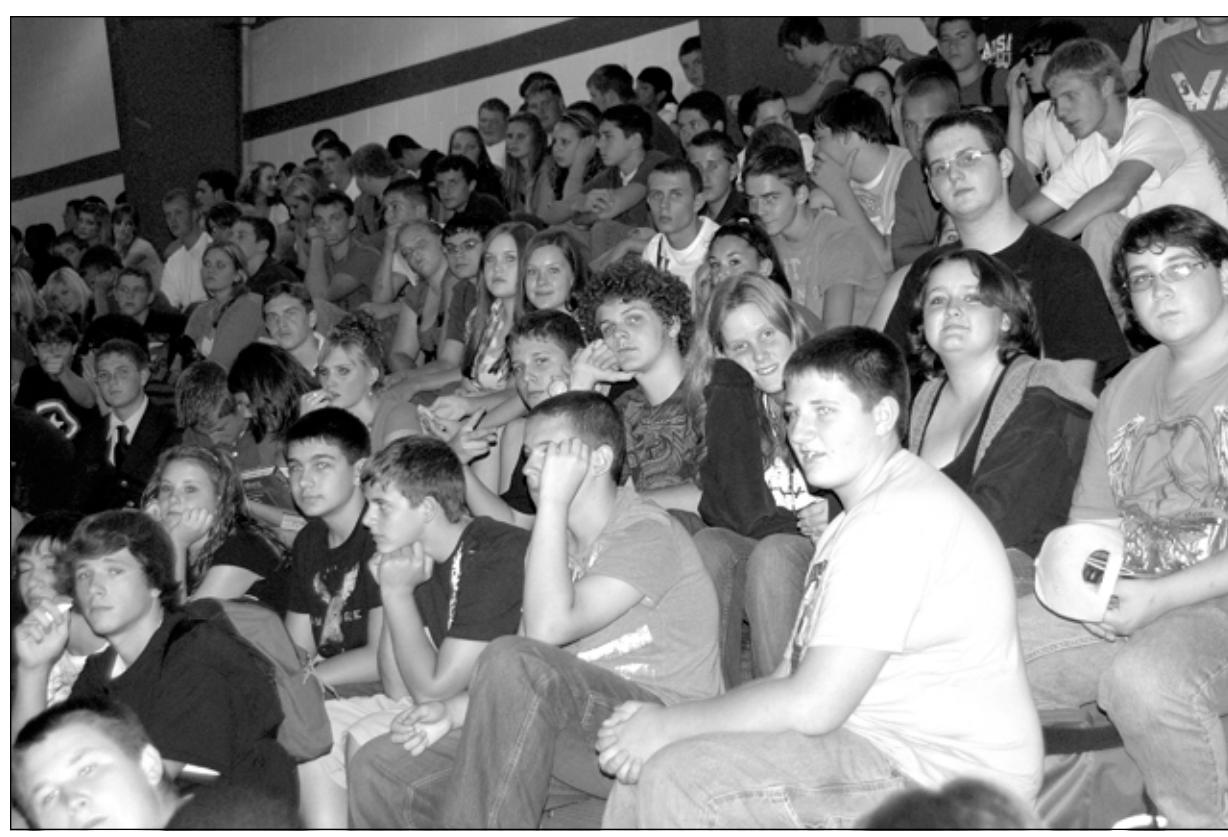
ROXANN MARIE OSWALD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROXANN MARIE OSWALD; MILBURN BUCKMINISTER; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above styled cause, in the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida, described as:

THE SOUTH 1/2 OF LOTS 3 AND 4, BLOCK 61, TOWN OF MACCLENNY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK D, PAGE 800, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A

PHOTO BY JIM MCGAULEY
Portion of the BCHS student body on hand for the Obama speech on September 8.

Choice option on speech

Most students saw Obama's address

The Baker County school district followed the lead of the vast majority of others across the United States and gave students and their parents the opportunity to opt out of President Obama's address to school students on September 6.

"We were able to review the speech beforehand and determined that what he said was appropriate for students, that there was no political agenda," said School Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson earlier that day.

"We also decided not to do any of the follow-up activities they first wanted to do. Our curriculum map is so set that we didn't feel we should interrupt it."

Ms. Raulerson said later in the day a relatively small number of parents contacted her and individual schools to make sure their children had the option. Still fewer were making sure their children would be allowed to watch what was essentially an inspirational message to students on a day when

many districts were experiencing their first day of a new year.

Baker County schools have been open for two weeks.

In the younger grades when the 28-minute address that included a few questions conflicted with lunch periods, principals opted for the latter rather than disrupt cafeteria operations. The speech was televised in classrooms in many cases, and Baker County High School opted for an hour's delay so it could be during fourth period. Principal Tom Hill estimated 1100 students turned out for the viewing in the gymnasium.

Superintendent Raulerson said following the broadcast she was satisfied that the message was appropriate.

"What he said he was going to say — he did."

Initially, the White House wanted to include a post-speech activity consisting of having students pen letters to themselves asking how they can help to improve schools and increase motivation. The message was altered following criticism that such activity smacked of totalitarian regimes and pushed Mr. Obama's liberal political agenda.

Paver promises to correct job

A Raiford, FL man was told September 2 he has until October 15 to correct a faulty driveway asphalt paving job or he will be charged with felony fraud.

Deputy Sgt. Thomas Dyal said he conveyed the mandate to Danny Jeffery following a complaint of shoddy workmanship by Virgil Manning, who in August arranged for the resurfacing of a driveway off Osteen Rd. near Macclenny.

Mr. Manning called the sheriff's department last week after he was unsuccessful getting Mr. Jeffery and a paving crew back onto his property. The complainant told Sgt. Dyal he contracted with the paver on August 10 to re-surface the driveway with four inches of asphalt for \$3200.

According to police, a crew showed up the same day, and

Mr. Manning said Mr. Jeffery, described as the project foreman, badgered him for the money so he could purchase more materials and pay the crew. The complainant complied and withdrew the money from the bank, and when he returned home the crew had left.

Mr. Manning said the foreman told him over the phone he would return in 90 days to finish the job after the asphalt had time to cure.

Sgt. Dyal also noted in his report that he spoke with an "asphalt consultant" at the Florida Department of Transportation who confirmed that asphalt does not require curing. The same consultant said the Manning driveway was subpar with pot holes visible and varying thickness of asphalt between 1-3 inches.

Contacted by phone this week, Mr. Jeffery said the crew ceased work because of rain that day, and only a square section of the driveway will have to be re-done. He said he would meet the October deadline.

Urge sharing of crops '10 percent in 2010' is launched

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Expecting an exceptionally good harvest this season? Afraid all those fruits and vegetables might go to waste? Then the Baker Food Project wants to hear from you.

The local effort organized by Helene Guest and Mitch Rhoden of the Samaritan Food Ministry is asking that food growers hold back a small portion of their harvest — 10 percent to be exact — for its inaugural campaign, "10 percent in 2010."

The Baker Food Project held its first meeting in June with participation from Macclenny city officials, the county health department and the Second Harvest food bank in Jacksonville, where some of the local pantry's donations originate.

"I wanted to see how we could be more self-sustaining and nutritious," explained Ms. Guest, an avid gardener herself. She described her love of "digging in the dirt and growing things" as a labor of love, and one that can help sustain families in need during these tough economic times.

"I hear a lot of growers say they would grow more if they had someone to give it to," Ms. Guest said. "There are people with such generous hearts and this gives them another outlet."

Those wanting to participate in the "10 percent in 2010" program can drop donations off at the Samaritan food bank on US 90 between Macclenny and Glen St. Mary, or just leave the excess in the ground for volunteers to pick and transport themselves.

"If they have an abundance, we can put together a gleaning group," said Mr. Rhoden. "A lot of times farmers have the food but they can't hire people to harvest it."

The Society of St. Andrews is a volunteer crop-gleaning group that could be tapped for assistance, said Ms. Guest.

Though food donations tend to grow during the holidays, this time of year is particularly difficult. "The cabinets aren't bare, but we're scraping the bottom," Mr. Rhoden said.

Falls crops like peas, corn, squash and greens are just some



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

of the fresh foods the group hopes to initially acquire through the effort.

"Whatever's in season, we'll take it," said Mr. Rhoden, a pastor with United Christian Church in Macclenny.

Growers can also begin planning their spring planting with the food bank in mind.

"We figure there are a lot of growers and farmers that just aren't aware of the need," said Ms. Guest.

"They don't even have to pick it," added the pastor.

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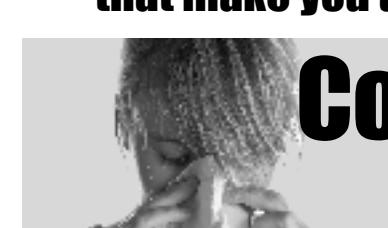
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Janice Bessinger takes a break from sorting books.

PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Getting kids 'hooked on books'

Literacy advocates launch effort to give them away free

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

At the beginning of last summer, Janice Bessinger, a former 4th and 5th grade teacher, helped jump start an effort to encourage reading and provide free books to youngsters in the Sanderson area.

She partnered with friend Dr. Jean Dowling and their activities evolved into a community project which has been named Hooked on Books.

"I'm pleased and surprised at the level of interest and support we've gotten from teachers, businesses and interested individuals," said Ms. Bessinger.

Hooked on Books will be holding its first book sale at the Macclenny Woman's Club September 26. The group is collecting donated works of fiction, non-fiction, textbooks, manuals and any other suitable reading material, mostly at the adult level, to sell. All proceeds will go to purchase good quality children's books for the Hooked on Books project.

One of the missions of the project is to expand to the point that it can provide free books to children in waiting rooms of local doctors and dentists, and the Baker County Health Department.

Last year, Ms. Bessinger and Dr. Dowling visited the Central Senior Center in Sanderson where seniors meet during the week for lunch. Since there is little established social activity for Sanderson children when school is out, the center invited them to start coming for lunch during the summer.

"Jean and I were talking and it occurred to us that the children out there had no way to get to the library for books to read in the summer when school was out," said Ms. Bessinger. "The bookmobile goes to Sanderson, but only to the post office. Many kids have no way to get there either."

They also discovered was that even if children had access to the library or bookmobile, many parents weren't willing to have them check out books because the chil-

dren often lost them. Lost books have to be paid for.

The ladies met with Marva Williams who helps manage Central Center. They proposed making books available to the children who came for lunch and Ms. Williams was very supportive of the idea.

The ladies got busy asking people to donate books. They also put up some of their own money to purchase them and started scouting second hand stores like Goodwill.

"Merchants were so generous. Sometimes they simply gave us books when we told them about the project," said Ms. Bessinger.

For Dr. Dowling, Hooked on Books is only the latest of her life-long endeavors to help foster literacy and learning. The former teacher and retired head of the former children's unit at Northeast Florida State Hospital understands the fundamental value of reading.

"There are children that don't necessarily have access to books in their home environments," Dr. Dowling said. "They are so surprised to learn the books are theirs to keep."

The project has attracted other supporters such as forth grade teacher Angela Callahan and first grade teacher Charity Greenwood, both passionate proponents of literacy for children. Ms. Callahan, who teaches at Westside Elementary, has conducted summer reading sessions for children at the Macclenny Park.

The four women have begun meeting weekly and brainstorming about new directions Hooked on Books can be taken.

When she was in Macclenny for the summer, Dr. Sonja Peterson-Lewis, a professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, also participated in the planning sessions and donated materials.

"We now have the support of the Baker County Rotary Club and that's exciting," said Ms. Bessinger. "Literacy is one of the Rotary's main missions."

Anyone who wants to donate books for the Hooked on Books book sale should bring them to the Women's Club on Fifth Street on Friday, September 25.

The book sale will be the following day from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Please call Ms. Bessinger for information at 259-7884.

Looting of vacant residences of ACs, equipment continues

Unoccupied homes were once again the target of thieves taking air conditioners and valuable copper tubing, the latest case a residence off Johnny Williams Rd. near Sanderson.

Bonnie Harvey reported to police on August 29 that 60 feet of copper wiring and piping from an outdoor central unit were taken sometime since late July. Ms. Harvey told Deputy Daniel Nichols the estimated cost of repair was \$4000.

A garage door nearby was forced open and about 300 feet of wire containing copper was taken. Its value was placed at \$1000.

The sheriff's department has been called to a half dozen vacant residences the past month after owners found central heat/air units removed or copper wiring detached.

In another recent case, a window heat/air unit was removed from a vacant home on Brown Rd. near Macclenny.

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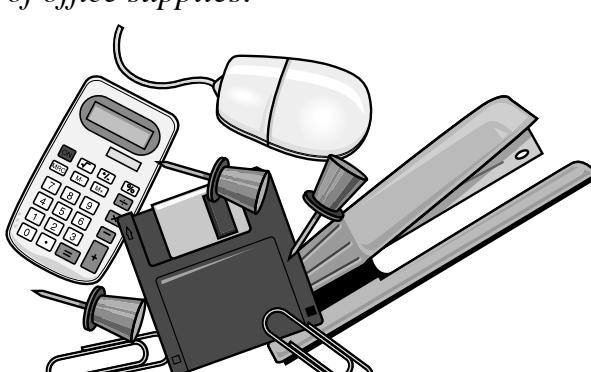


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St. Johns WMD to host meeting

Outdoor recreation and restoration projects in north Florida will be discussed Sept. 15 during the St. Johns River Water Management District's Northern Region Recreational Public Meeting.

The meeting will be held from 1:00-3:00 pm in the conference room at Horseshoe Lake Park, 10800 E. Highway 318 (County Road 318), Orange Springs.

District staff members will provide updates on recreation, land management and land acquisition activities in northeast Florida. The public will have an opportunity to comment on recreational issues involving district lands.

The District buys land to provide flood protection, protect water supplies, and restore and preserve water bodies. Public land also maintains wildlife habitats and provides compatible recreational opportunities for the public.

For more information, call the District's Division of Land Management at (386) 329-4879.



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Tea party comes to Glen



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON
About 300 people from around the county and the Jacksonville area attended a Tea Party rally at Glen St. Mary's Celebration Park the morning of September 5. A number of speakers addressed issues ranging from the Constitution and patriotism to health care, religious persecution and the Second Amendment. Tea Party organizer Mike Yarborough said a group of Baker County residents will head to Washington, DC on September 12 to a national rally in support of lower taxes and smaller government. Pictured is Mr. Yarborough and some of the many signs attendees displayed during the two-hour event.



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SCHOOL BUS DRIVING CLASS

The Baker County School District Transportation Department will be offering a school bus driving class for anyone interested in driving a bus for Baker County schools, starting September 14, 2009. The cost for the class will be \$50. The classes will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Baker County Transportation compound on Baker Bus Drive. The class consists of 20 hours classroom instruction and 20 hours driving time. You must have five years licensed driving experience, a Florida's driver's license, a high school diploma or equivalent to be eligible to take the class. For more information, please contact the Transportation Department at 259-2444.

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OBITUARIES

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

Obituaries must be submitted in a timely fashion and have a local connection. Pictures are printed with obituaries free of charge. The newspaper reserves the right to publish photos based on quality. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

Mrs. Copeland rites on Saturday

Totsie "Mama Tot" Copeland, 62, died peacefully on September 5, 2009. She retired from Northeast Florida State Hospital after 30 years of service.

Mrs. Copeland was born March 11, 1947 to Henry and Pearl Paige of Sander-

son. She is survived by daughters Wendy (Jessie) Simmons, LaVerna (Carey) Dolison, Natalie (Julian) Lee, Tasha, Ashley and Naudia Copeland; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 pm on Friday, September 11 at Combs Funeral Home in Lake City.

The funeral service for Mrs. Copeland will be the following day at 2:00 pm at the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny.

Ms. Heathco, 47, enjoyed shopping

Kathleen K. Heathco, 47, of Orlando died September 1, 2009. She was born in Denton, Texas on May 29, 1962.

Kathleen was a kind-hearted person who adopted anyone in need. She loved her children and enjoyed shopping. She was predeceased by her mother Shirlene Stowers DeHart and sister Tonya Charlene Blaine.

Survivors include husband William David Heathco of Orlando; father Ernest Gene DeHart and step-mother Chessie DeHart of Glen St. Mary; children Robert D. Heathco of Jacksonville and Brandon Heathco of Orlando; brother Michael Eugene DeHart of Glen; sisters Deborah Brost of Atlantic Beach, Brandi Wood of Yulee and Candi Rolack of Jacksonville.

The funeral service was held September 5 at 3:00 pm at Taylor Church with Pastor Jim Cox officiating. Interment followed at Taylor Cemetery. Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm



Jesus answered, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5

Steven Hicks, 18, of Macclenny dies

Steven Hicks, 18, of Macclenny died September 5, 2009 at Ed Fraser Hospital. Mr. Hicks was a lifelong resident of Baker County and attended the Manntown Congregational Holiness Church. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and spending time with his friends. He was preceded in death by his PaPa Bud Hicks.

Survivors include mother Debbie Hicks of Macclenny; father George Rodriguez of Cocoa Beach; daughter Paris Elise Dodd Hicks of Sanderson; fiancé Tiffany Dodd of Sanderson; brother Joseph Rodriguez of Macclenny; maternal grandmother Agnes Hicks of Macclenny; paternal grandmother Mary Scopino of Williston.

The funeral service for Mr. Hicks was held September 9 at 11:00 am at the Christian Fellowship Temple with Rev. David Thomas officiating. Interment followed at Manntown Cemetery. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Todd A. Paige dies September 4

Todd A. Paige of Jacksonville died on September 4, 2009 at Memorial Medical Center.

Mr. Paige is survived by wife Patricia; daughters Nicole and Shantelle Paige of Jacksonville; loving mother Betty Jean Paige of Sanderson; father James L. Paige of Boston, MA; brothers Darrian (Sheree) Paige of Sanderson, Kevin (Pamela) Paige of Macclenny, Alvin (Shameka) Paige of Jacksonville, Bradley (Alvia) Williams of Lake City; two grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday, September 11 at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ on South 8th St. in Macclenny from 5:00-7:00 pm.

The funeral service will be held at the same location at 11:00 am the following day with Pastor Joe Ruise officiating.

Harry Brown Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Thanks so much

The family extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Merle Raulerson's special friends Becky Smith and Margaret Harris, both of whom spent a lot of time and effort helping to take care of her. A special thank you to Pastor Elmer Crews. Merle really enjoyed talking to him.

The family of Merle Raulerson

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Callie Phillips, 74, of Jacksonville

Callie Joann Phillips of Jacksonville, 74, died Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Born in Anderson County, SC on April 23, 1935, she was the daughter of William Lester Nix Sr., and Pauline Smith Nix Gillespie. She was a member of the Cycler Baptist Church and lived in Baker County for 16 years before moving to Jacksonville.

Survivors include husband Julius C. Phillips; daughters Brenda Gale (Don) Anderson, Tereasa Yvonne Anderson, Denise Pauline (Clyde) Phillips, Sarah 'Lee' (Shawn) Youn; son Jevis Randall (Nancy) Phillips; sister Jennie (Ronnie) Tucker; 18 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held September 19 at 3:00 PM at Faith Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

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EVERYONE WELCOME



Callie Phillips

Mrs. Raulerson buried at Taylor

Willie Merle Raulerson died August 24, 2009 at her home in Marietta with family and friends by her side. She was born on February 23, 1928 to Lannie Taylor and Willie Mae Burke (Tom) Ahl and had many relatives in the Baker County area.

Mrs. Raulerson was predeceased by sister Mary Logan of Daytona and her loving husband William Curtis Raulerson.

She is survived by son John William Raulerson of Virginia; grandson William Curtis Raulerson of Jacksonville; sister Betty (Alcee) Taylor of Cortez, FL; brother Charles Taylor of Jacksonville; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Mrs. Raulerson was buried at Taylor Cemetery. Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville, was in charge of arrangements.

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Wednesday Night..... 7:30 pm

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11:00 am

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7:00 pm

Radio WJXR 92.1 Sunday

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Youth Programs

Sunday School

10:00 am

Common Ground - Sunday

11:00 am

Common Ground - Wed. (Teens)

7:00 pm

God Kids - Sunday

11:00 am

God Kids - Wednesday

7:00 pm

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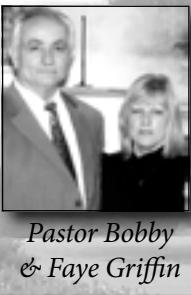
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Sunday service ~ 11:00 am

Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm

Family style dinner ~ 1st Sunday of the month

following service



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Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Children's Church 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Services

Ruth Milton, avid sports fan

Ruth Ann Milton, age 72, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family on September 8, 2009. Ruth Ann was born August 13, 1937 in Nellis, West Virginia and had resided in Macclenny since 1960. She was an active member of Faith Baptist Church in Macclenny and enjoyed fellowship with her church family as a member of the Young at Heart Class.

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years: James Allan Milton; her three children: daughter: Robin Elizabeth (Steven) Ray of Glen St. Mary, FL; her sons: Mark Allan (Terri) Milton and Quentin Austin (Tonya) Milton all of Macclenny. She is also survived by brothers: Danny (Diane) Crowder of Summerfield, FL, John Hugh (Penny) Crowder of Melbourne, FL, Bobby (Christine) Crowder, Tommy (Tina) Crowder and Richard Crowder all of Jacksonville, FL; her sisters: Rosemary (Jerry) Marsden of Wisconsin, Linda (Boggy) Romines and Terri Elaine (Pat) Bauer both of Jacksonville, FL. Ruth Ann was predeceased by her father: Austin Daniel (Tom) Crowder; her grandparents: John and Mary Alice Crowder; her sister: Theda White and brother: Jerry Crowder.

She has left a wonderful Christian legacy to her beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren. Grandchildren: Felicia Milton (Ryan) Yarbrough, Mandy (Chris) Ray-Crews, Britt Allan (Jessie) Milton, Stefanie Ray (Brian) Horne, Jennifer Lee (Danny) Royal, Brian Mark (Charlie) Milton, Matthew Steven Ray, Joshua Dustin Dupree, Jacob Austin Milton and Trace Allan Milton. Great grandchildren: Garrett and Dawson Yarbrough, Cody, Cason and Camber Milton, Avery Royal, Gracie Ann and Waylon Milton and unborn Alyssa Raye Crews.

Ruth Ann was an avid football and baseball fan and was always supporting her grandsons in their local sports activities. Before her illness, she was frequently seen at local ball games and most recently supporting her grandson, Jacob, and the Baker Boyz traveling baseball team during their week long camp at Cooperstown, New York.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 11:00 am in Faith Baptist Church, Macclenny, FL with Rev. Torran Dismuke officiating. Interment will follow in Macedonia Cemetery, Macclenny, FL. The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

Pallbearers will be: Britt Milton, Brian Milton, Matthew Ray, Joshua Dupree, Danny Royal and Chris Crews. Honorary pallbearers are the Deacons of Faith Baptist Church: Kermit Wallstedt, Earl Lindsey, Weir Barton and Hugh Wilkerson.

| PAID OBITUARY

'Dot' Sykes, 76, dies Labor Day

Dorothy "Dot" Joan Sykes, 76, of Macclenny died Monday, September 7, 2009. She was born in Jacksonville to David Keating and Hazel Gladys O'Cain Keating on December 14, 1932, and resided in Baker County since 1991 after moving from Jacksonville.

Dot was a member of Fellowship Baptist

Dorothy Sykes



Soil pH testing key to good gardening

**ALICIA LAMBORN
HORTICULTURE AGENT
Baker County Extension Service**

Soil testing is an important part of gardening but a part that is often overlooked or deemed unimportant. Having your soil tested to determine the pH (measure of acidity or alkalinity of the soil) and extractable levels of nutrients (level of nutrients available to your plants) will actually take the guesswork out of gardening.

Whether you are growing vegetables or other landscape plants, soil pH is important because it will ultimately affect the growth and quality of the plants. It does this by influencing the availability of certain nutrients in the soil.

For example, plants may exhibit nutrient deficiencies (or toxicities) as a result of soil pH. In acidic (sometimes referred to as "sour") soils, the availability of plant nutrients such as potassium (K), phosphorus (P), calcium (Ca), and magnesium (Mg) is reduced, while the availability of potentially toxic elements such as aluminum (Al), iron (Fe), and zinc (Zn) are increased.

In alkaline (sometimes referred to as "sweet") soils, the availability of iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), and boron

(B) are reduced.

So what does all of this mean? There are exceptions, but most fruits, vegetables and landscape plants grow best when the soil pH is between 5.8 and 6.5, which is considered slightly acidic. (A soil pH of 7.1 or above is considered alkaline.) This is because the availability of all nutrients is maximized within this range. Applying lime to the soil may be needed if the soil pH is below this range to reduce soil acidity, supply nutrients to the soil (mainly calcium), and bring micronutrients into usable form.

If you have strongly alkaline soils, lowering the pH is much more difficult and there is no way to permanently lower the pH of soils formed from high amounts of liming materials. Under these circumstances, it is best to select plants which are tolerant of high pH conditions to avoid continuing plant nutritional problems.

However, the soil pH can be temporarily lowered by adding elemental sulfur. Repeat applications are necessary, but care must be taken since plants can be injured or killed if too much sulfur is applied or if it is added too often. Therefore, never apply more than five to ten pounds of sulfur per 1000 square feet per application and always monitor

your plants.

"Acid-forming fertilizers" containing sulfate (such as ammonium sulfate) can also be used to lower the soil pH, but not all sulfate materials (e.g., calcium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, potassium sulfate) will acidify soil. Organic materials such as manure and peat can also help reverse the effects of alkaline soil pH on some landscape plants but since these materials decompose slowly, annual or semi-annual applications are usually necessary.

Before attempting to make any changes to your soil pH, be sure to have your soil tested. A soil test will determine your soil's pH and tell you how much (if any) lime should be applied. A soil fertility

test will also give you advice on how to fertilize your plants for maximum growth and health.

If your soil test results indicate that a drastic change in pH is needed, it is usually best to re-test the following season to make sure your efforts have been successful. Soil testing is available through the University of Florida's Soil Testing Laboratory and the Baker County Extension Office located at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue (Hwy 90).

Stop by today to pick up a soil testing kit. Results take approximately two weeks and you should contact the extension office at 259-3520 to discuss results or if you have any questions.

Baker County Fair Association

PET SHOW

Saturday, October 10th
at 6:00 p.m.

Livestock Barn
at the Fairgrounds

BRING YOUR
FAVORITE PET!!!



Please no livestock, pets only! • Ages 4 - 18

Please fill out the form below and return by
Sept. 26th to: PO Box 492, Macclenny, FL 32063

Name: _____

Address: _____

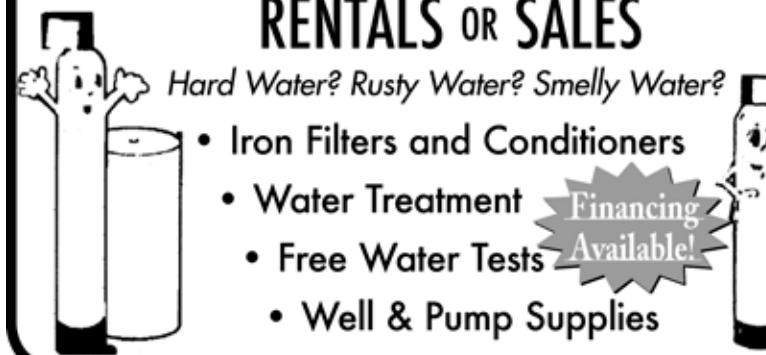
Phone: _____

Type of Pet: _____

CAROLYN HEIGHTS WATER COMPANY, INC.

186 E. Macclenny Ave. 259-5106

RENTALS OR SALES



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to an application submitted by Christopher W. Mann on behalf of Geneva May Beck, to be granted a Special Use Permit in reference to Section 3.05.25 Horses and Ponies for property located at 9499 Ash Road in Macclenny FL., to allow keeping and maintaining one (1) horse on a one (1) acre parcel in a residential zoning. The Baker County Land Planning Agency will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009, at 7:01 p.m... or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners Chambers of the Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL. On the date above-mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the Special Use Permit request. Written comments for or against the Special Use Permit request may be sent to the Baker County Planning and Zoning Department, 81 North Third Street, Macclenny FL. 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to (904)259-5057. Copies of the Special Use request may be inspected in the Planning and Zoning Department by any member of the public. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodations or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at (904) 259-5123 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to an application submitted by Nora Thomas Herrmann to be granted a Special Exception on property located on Frenda Road, approximately 2 miles east of the intersection of CR 125 and CR 229 north of Macclenny in Section 07, Township 1S, Range 21, containing approximately 6.10 acres in Baker County, FL. The Baker County Land Planning Agency (LPA), will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:01 p.m. in the County Commissioners chambers of the Administration Building, 55 North Third St., Macclenny, FL. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the Special Exception request. The purpose of the request is to be granted a Special Exception to the Baker County Land Development Regulations in reference to Section 3.04.10.02.3 Permissible Uses by Special Exception for the operation of a dog kennel within an agricultural zoning. Written comments for or against the Special Exception may be sent to Baker County Planning Department, 81 North Third St., Macclenny, FL 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to (904)259-5057. Copies of the Special Exception may be inspected by any member of the public in the Planning Department, address stated above. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at (904) 259-5123 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

REVIVAL

CALvary BAPTIST CHURCH

with Evangelist Dave Jones

September 13-16

Sunday service 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Dinner on the ground following the morning service

Monday - Wednesday 7:00 pm

Nursery provided

Pastor Donnie E. Williams
523 North Boulevard ~ Macclenny

AutoCrafters COLLISION REPAIR

AutoCrafters Collision Repair
180 S. Lowder St., Macclenny
259-3001

- Lifetime Warranty on all repairs
- 10 Locations thru out Florida
- Free Computerized Estimates
- State of the art equipment
- We are a Direct Repair Provider for most Major Insurance Companies
- I-Car and ASE Certified

Let Us Be Your
Collision Repair Specialist
"IT'S OUR BUSINESS"

SOCIAL

SOCIAL NOTICE SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Birth announcements, wedding notices and social events must be submitted within four weeks of the event. 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.



Katelyn Satterwhite



Kaden Parman

Born August 18

Jake and Becky Satterwhite of Macclenny are pleased to announce the birth of daughter Katelyn Kay at St. Vincent's Medical Center on August 18, 2009.

Katelyn weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz.

Grandparents are Rusty and Carolyn Thompson of Glen St. Mary and Chuck and Kelly Satterwhite of Starke.



Mr. Carter and Ms. Harvey

November vows

The parents of Miranda Harvey and Timothy Carter, both of Macclenny, are pleased to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage.

The bride is the daughter of Vickie Harvey and Brandi Griffis of Lake Butler and the groom is the son of Stephanie Wilkinson and Steve Carter of Macclenny.

The couple plans to wed on November 7 at the Glen St. Mary Celebration Park pavilion.

'Senior' prom is on September 11

If you are over 60 years old, you are invited to the Council on Aging's "Senior Prom" on Friday, September 11, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This formal event will be held at the Agriculture Center on U.S. 90. There will be special music and entertainment, and heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by Taylor'd Cuisine.

There will be a \$5.00 charge to help pay for the event and you must RSVP so we will have enough seating and food for everyone. If you are interested in attending, please call 259-2223, ext. 231.

Also, if you have fancy dresses that you no longer need, we would love to have them. We especially need larger sizes. You can drop it off at 101 E. Macclenny Avenue.

Born August 27

Rob Parman and Shelley Daniels of Jacksonville are pleased to announce the arrival of son Kaden James Parman on August 27, 2009 at Baptist Medical Center.

He weighed 9 lbs. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Kaden joins brother Koy and sister Saryn.



Mr. and Mrs. Robertson

50th anniversary

James Russell and Bonnie Robertson of Macclenny will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 12.

The couple was married in Nahunta, GA on that day in 1959.

Their children who will help celebrate are James (Rusty) Robertson of Panama City, Cindy Scott, Cheryl Lewis and Scott Robertson, all of Macclenny.

The Robertsons have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Fish

Norman-Fish

Tiffany Danielle Norman of Sanderson and Jonathan Hugh Fish of Macclenny were married in an evening ceremony August 29 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville.

The bride is the daughter of Karl and Melissa Norman of Sanderson and the groom is the son of Hugh and Barbara Fish of Macclenny.

The couple will reside in Sanderson.

ROdeo DAYS

FIRST TIME EVER
at the
Baker County Fair
October 2-3
8:00 pm

Bull Riding
Bronc Riding
Team Roping
Barrel Racing
Calf Roping

**College Night
at Lake City
September 22**

Lake City Community College will hold its College Night on Tuesday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Howard Conference Center. Approximately 3500 students have been invited from LCCC and high schools within the five-district service area together with four contiguous counties in Georgia.

Thirty-five colleges and universities will be attending the event, along with 10 programs or services from LCCC. The universities include UF, Santa Fe College, FSU, FAMU, USF, UNF, UCF, FAU Honor's College, FAU, UWF.

Also on campus will be the University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, West Point, University of Northwestern Ohio, Bethune-Cookman University, University of Phoenix, Johnson & Wales University, Wesleyan University, the University of Mississippi, Dragon Rising College, The Art Institutes, Saint Leo University and Nova Southeastern.

Meals will be on sale at Lobo Café. Door prizes will be given out every 10 minutes, including one grand prize. There will be an opportunity for visitors to sign up as friends of LCCC on Facebook.

For more information contact Andrea Wise, LCCC recruiter at (386) 754-4246 or e-mail at wisea@lakecitycc.edu.

Douglass reunion

Fredrick Douglass family reunion will be September 20 at the Lake Butler Community Center at 155 NW Third Street, Lake Butler from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch begins at 12:30 pm.

In Lake Butler, off State Road 100 turn north on Lake Avenue at the Courthouse. The Community Center is at the lake.

Family and friends are urged to come and bring a covered dish to share.

Basic skills test

The Test of Adult Basic Education will be administered Friday, September 18th at Baker County's Family Service Center next to Keller Intermediate School. Registration begins at 8:30 am, testing begins promptly at 9:00 am and ends at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 for the complete battery of tests. Please bring the exact amount of money as we cannot give change or checks will be accepted.

For further information or questions, call 259-0403 or 259-4110.

CONTACT US

By phone at 904.259.2400 or by fax at 904.259.6502. You can stop by our office located at 104 S. Fifth Street, Macclenny, FL or mail your submission to PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063.

We are available online at www.bakercountypress.com

Fair entry deadlines approach; it will run October 2 thru 10th

**ALICIA LAMBORN
& MELANIE THOMAS**
Baker County Extension Office

cacti and succulents and special displays (container gardens, topiary, etc.) and get ready to bring home some cash!

Just be sure that your plants have been in your possession for at least three months prior to the fair and each entry is labeled with common or botanical name (if known). Also, all plants and containers must be clean, groomed, and free from disease and insects; failure to do so will disqualify the entry for judging.

Artwork of all kinds are accepted for Home Arts entries. Some examples include photography, sculpture, painting, and drawings. Crafts are another fun project to enter into the fair. Needlework, quilts, garments, jewelry, wood carving, ceramics and flower arranging are just a few of the many crafts you may enter. Showing talent in the kitchen is another popular category with canning and baking.

Canned products such as vegetables, fruits, relishes, jellies, and sauces will make nice entries.

Baked products including breads,

pies, cookies, and candies are also

a wonderful way to display home

talent. Home arts entries will be

accepted at the fairgrounds from

noon to 7:00 pm on both Tues-

day, September 29 and Wednes-

day, September 30.

Baked goods and candies will

only be accepted on Wednesdays,

September 30 from 3:00-7:00

pm. If you have any questions

regarding Home Arts entries,

please call the Baker County Extension Office at 259-3520.

If you have a green thumb,

make sure you take the oppor-

tunity to display your gardening

talents in the horticulture area.

Both adults and youth are en-

couraged to participate and are

judged separately.

Enter multiple plants (up to

25 entries are allowed) into

one of many sections, including

hanging baskets, flowering/fruit-

ing plants, foliage plants, bonsai,

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Enter multiple plants (up to

Touting Scouts to the Rotarians

Believes benefits to young men are immeasurable

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Mark Gibson, leader of Boy Scout troop 304 in Waycross, Georgia, was the speaker at the weekly Baker County Rotary Club meeting September 2.

Mr. Gibson spoke of the merits of scouting and the beneficial influence it has on young men who get involved with the organization. He also shared some background on the history of the Boy Scouts which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2010.

"Scouting is a proven way of teaching boys the correct path to becoming responsible men who revere God and respect other people," he said. "And it gets them away from the TV and other bad influences."

According to Mr. Gibson, scouting helps instill many qualities such as independence, confidence, creativity, respect, responsibility, cooperation and leadership skills.

It provides opportunities for experiences contemporary young men, particularly inner city youth, may not have otherwise, such as camping, boating, fishing and hiking.

"That's where the summer camp experience plays a vital role," he said. "Some families simply don't have the money for such things, but in scouting no boy is ever turned away because of inability to pay fees."

Mr. Gibson participated as a leader at a camp in Thomasville, Georgia this past summer. He witnessed firsthand what scouting is uniquely designed to achieve.

"One of the junior leaders was a 16-year-old who had a serious speech impediment. It was very difficult for him, but in the camp setting he was in his element. Being involved in scouting empowered him to challenge himself to take on that role."

Mr. Gibson shared some statistics with Rotarians:

- One in four boys are involved in scouting
- 3 to 4 percent of Boy Scouts attain the rank of Eagle Scout
- 90 percent of men who become astronauts are Eagle Scouts
- Sam Walton, Neil Armstrong, Bill Gates, John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, David Bowie, Jimmie Buffet and Steven Spielberg were all Boy Scouts.

"This year Mr. Spielberg helped establish a new category of merit badge in cinematography," said Mr. Gibson.

Mr. Gibson became an eagle scout at age 17. His brothers were all involved in scouting, as are his nephews. He is hopeful his sons will follow in the same path.

"I would encourage every boy to get involved in scouting. I've seen



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Boyscout leader Mark Gibson with Rotarian Joel Barber.

firsthand the powerful positive influence it can have."

Today, women are often scout leaders and headmasters of troops. Mr. Gibson gives them a lot of recognition and credits his own mother with his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

"I was interested in girls and other things by that time and it was distracting. My mother just kept kicking my fanny about it and I did it, thanks in part to her," he said.

According to Mr. Gibson, it is most beneficial for young men to enter scouting when they are boys. Entering scouting as a teenager, a boy has less tendency to participate as fully and receive the maximum level of benefit.

"At that point, once they smell the fumes (perfume, car exhaust) it's harder to keep them focused," he said with a laugh.

Mr. Gibson is an executive with Gibson-McDonald Furniture, headquartered in Waycross.



School Lunch MENU

September 14 - September 18

Offered everyday:
Cold lunch plate of chef salad with wheat roll or crackers and dessert (when offered) 1% lowfat white milk, 1/2% lowfat flavored milk, orange juice.

Monday, September 14

Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Tasty chili with beans and a homemade wheat roll, tuna salad sandwich, choice of two sides: baked potato rounds, raw veggies with ranch dressing, fruit choice

Tuesday, September 15

Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Slice of pepperoni pizza or ham with blackeye peas over rice with a homemade wheat roll, choice of two sides: seasoned mixed vegetables, tossed salad with dressing chilled fruit choice and gelatin with whipped topping

Wednesday, September 16

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, peach slices and milk

Lunch: Taco salad with a homemade wheat roll or grilled ham and cheese sandwich, choice of two sides: golden corn, lettuce and tomato slices, chilled fruit juice

Thursday, September 17

Breakfast: Cereal with slice of toast, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Mexican burrito with salsa or chicken nuggets with a homemade wheat roll, choice of two sides: green beans with new potatoes, raw veggies with dressing, chilled fruit and a homemade cookie (gr. 7-12 peanut butter)

Friday, September 18

Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Sloppy Joe on a bun or beef vegetable soup with a grilled cheese sandwich, choice of two sides: baked french fries, tossed salad with dressing chilled fruit juice

IT'S THE LAW! IS YOUR BABY SAFE?

Baker County Health Department
Car Seat Program

Do you need a new car seat?

Do you need your car seat checked?

Make an appointment at the
Baker County Health Department

259-8267 ext. 2254

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
480 W. Lowder St.
Macclenny
259-6291

Baker County Health Department



REVIVAL

at

Raiford Road Church

September 13 - September 16

with Evangelist Bill Sturm

Sunday, September 13

Morning services 8:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Evening service 6:30 P.M.

Monday thru Wednesday

Nightly at 6:30 P.M.

We are located approximately 1 mile south of I-10.

For more information please call our church office at 259-6015.

WANTED

Old photographs of Baker County buildings, landmarks & residents prior to 1960 for completion of Gene Barber's book on the history of Baker County.

PHOTOS WILL BE RETURNED ASAP

Also photos of military veterans and families from Baker County

Call 259-2400 or 259-9154 for more information.

BUILDING WITH EXPERTISE FOR OVER 25 YEARS

COMBS BUILDERS, INC.

New Construction • Additions • Remodeling

Rotten Wood Repair • Siding • Barns

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Bilingual students encouraged to enroll!! For class times and locations, visit hrblock.com/class or call 1-800-HRBLOCK.

Enroll now!

H&R BLOCK

*Enrollment restrictions apply. Enrollment in, or completion of, the H&R Block Income Tax Course is neither an offer nor a guarantee of employment. ©2009 HRB Tax Group, Inc. PAD127

Baton Twirling!

Come experience the fun and excitement of Baton Twirling from the very best!

The All-American Twirling Academy staff includes Baker County Middle School and High School Instructor and former Intermediate Miss Majorette of Florida Kristen Haddock, UF's majorette instructor and former World Champion twirler June Stoeber, and other award winning instructors!

- First time beginners through Advanced -
- Age 4 through High School -

Registration at 4:30pm
on Thursday, September 10th
at Keller Intermediate School Gymnasium

All-American Twirling Academy

For more information,
call 904-338-4760
or 352-486-6516.

BUDGET

NEW RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

FY 2010

ESTIMATED REVENUE

State Aid	\$319,000
Local	\$20,000
LSTA grant	\$28,284
Interest	\$250
Misc Income	\$500
USF Reimbursement	\$20,000
Cash Carryover	\$219,000
Total	\$607,034

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Salary Director	\$49,522
Wages Other	\$72,915
FICA	\$9,369
FRS	\$13,834
Health	\$17,688
Legal/Contractual	\$44,905
Audit	\$8,000
Office Rent	\$12,000
Communications	\$34,000
Supplies	\$10,000
Workers Comp	\$4,500
Insurance	\$7,600
Postage	\$5,400
Travel	\$2,500
Repair & Maintenance	\$2,000
Fuel & Maintenance	\$8,000
Contingency	\$3,000
Automation	\$5,000
Program Support	\$2,500
Advertising	\$1,100
Dues	\$4,560
Equipment	\$22,000
Library Materials	\$54,100
Budgeted Reserve	\$212,541
Total	\$607,034

The tentative, adopted and/or final budget are on file in the above office. The public hearing to approve this budget will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 5pm at the office of New River Solid Waste Facility SR121 north of Raiford.

THE BAKER COUNTY CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES:

Placement,
correction or
cancellation of ads
may be phoned in
anytime before Monday
at 5 p.m. for publication
on Thursday.

Advertising Info.

Classified ads and notices must be paid in advance, and be in our office no later than 4:00 pm the Monday preceding publication, unless otherwise arranged in advance. Ads can be mailed provided they are accompanied by payment and instructions. They should be mailed to: Classified Ads, The Baker County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063. We cannot assume responsibility for accuracy of ads or notices given over the telephone. Liability for errors in all advertising will be limited to the first publication only. If after that time, the ad continues to run without notification of error by the person or agency for whom it was published, then that party assumes full payment responsibility. The Baker County Press reserves the right to refuse advertising or any other material which in the opinion of the publisher does not meet standards of publication.

For Sale

Fleetwood pop-up camper, bought March of 2006, sleeps five, has A/C and heat, used six times. Asking \$3,700. 259-6451. 9/10p
25'x36' garage trusses \$1500 OBO. 259-3300. 3/12fc
Hunting climbing tree stand with prop, \$60 firm. Call 259-7542. 9/10p
Got roaches? Buy Harris Famous Roach Tablets or Powder. Eliminates roaches or your money back, guaranteed. Available at Bennett's Feed. 9/3/10/8p
Artists! Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more! On sale now. The Office Mart, 110 S. Fifth Street, 259-3737. t/c
Lark building 12x36, very nice \$5500. Guns: 35 Marlin \$300, Ruger P95 \$350, 44 Mag 8½ barrel SS \$500. Call 904-259-3763. 9/10-9/17p
2 infant car seats with bases, one blue and beige, one black and tan, \$30 each. 588-3628. 7/23fc
Clarinet in good condition \$60. 982-0633. 9/3-9/10p

Automobiles

2008 Harley Davidson Nightster 1200XL, two-tone HD orange and black, only 2000 miles. Screamin Eagle package included, \$11,000 payoff. Call 259-3172 or 477-4107. 9/10-9/17p
1985 Suzuki RM250 runs good, very fast, \$500. 588-5212. 9/10p
Auto and truck repair, give me a call. I can save you a lot. 571-0913. 8/27-9/17p
1998 Honda Civic EX, loaded, A/C, four cylinder, four door, automatic transmission, cruise control, power windows, power door locks, sunroof, 35 mpg, 175,000 miles, just serviced, \$2600. 904-591-2916. 9/10c
1993 S-10 SS motor and transmission \$600. Front clip and bed \$350. 588-5212. 9/10p
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JOE DARASKEVICH
SPORTS WRITER

The Lady Wildcat volleyball team entered the regular-season win column September 3 with a 3-0 (25-10, 25-13, 25-3) home trouncing over Interlachen. BCHS was winless in the first month of the season last year, so notching an early victory was very important for this year's success.

"The team's pretty optimistic right now," said head coach Chris Armoreda. "There's a completely different feel in the air, and the team is much more confident this season."

After losing a close match to West Nassau in the Pre-Season Classic, Armoreda was concerned with his team's ability to finish off opponents. But finishing was not the problem last Thursday as Jordan Hand served 16 consecutive points in the third game to cement the victory over Interlachen.

"She was definitely the back-breaker that night," said Armoreda.

Hand was not alone as the four senior leaders contributed, along with freshman outside hitter Kayla Holland. Armoreda

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believes in starting the best team possible, so Holland sees time on the court despite her age.

"If you can do the job, you can do the job," said Armoreda. "She's got a good volleyball sense and she's one of the most consistent players on the team."

BCHS is 1-1 at home this year, but will have to learn to win on the road as they finish September with seven of eight matches on the road.

The Lady Wildcats host Baldwin September 15 at 6:00 pm. The contest will be the first game against an opponent from the northern half of the district. The district was shuffled during the off-season and only matches against the northern division will count in the district record.

The new district includes Baldwin, West Nassau, Bishop Snyder and Baker County. Keystone, Interlachen, Crescent City, Union County and Bradford County in the south.

Benefit volleyball

A benefit leisure volleyball tournament will be held at the courts in north Macclellany on September 12 starting at 10:00: that morning.

There is a \$50 entry fee per team, and the proceeds go to a fund for Rodney (Scott) Davis, who is battling colon cancer.

The event is sponsored by Dinkins Church. Refreshments will be available.

For more details, contact Janet Rowe at 803-6952.

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Trinity will be seeking revenge in Cats' opening home contest

The Baker High Wildcats will face a tough test this weekend with the Trinity Conquerors in town for the season's first home game. Don't expect the walkover from last season when the Wildcats spanked Trinity in a 42-0 shutout.

Coach Bobby Johns doesn't believe his team will have as easy a time as last year, or for that matter last week against Crescent City.

"I think they got embarrassed last year when we played them," said coach Johns. "I know they're hungry for payback."

The Conquerors opened their season in fine fashion on Friday with a 48-21 win over Episcopal. Like the Wildcats at Crescent City, the Conquerors let the Eagles roll up an early lead and then came back to amass 34 unanswered points in the victory.

Though comparing victories is an "apples and oranges" situation, the size of the victory is an indication that Coach Verlon Dorminey has some athletes on his team.

Ironically, it was feast or famine last year for the Conquerors. They were either beating teams by 30 or more points on average or losing by a similar

margin. Trinity went 5-4 last fall and that was not a record that satisfied Dorminey, the fans or the Conquerors.

The Conquerors started the season ranked 10th in the *Florida Times-Union* power poll. The Wildcats on the other hand did not crack the top ten. Perhaps that was a reflection of their poor showing in the Kickoff Classic, but it is not a slight that will be lost on Coach Johns or his staff.

They'll want to show the media as well as the Conquerors they not only belonged in the poll, but considering the shellacking they gave Trinity in the Conqueror's home stadium last year, they should have been ranked well above their opponent.

Trinity's main weapon is Andre Buie, who rushed for 205 yards and two touchdowns on Friday. They also had a 92-yard kickoff return for a score from speedy Rashad Knight and a 55-yard interception return for a score by Ahmad Christian.

The key to the game should be stopping Buie like the Cats did last year, and avoid some of the costly errors and turnovers that plagued the Wildcats in Crescent City.

Opponent scoreboard

Here's a look at how the Wildcat opposition did this past weekend starting with the Trinity Conquerors.

This Friday's opponent came from behind to score 34 unanswered points and beat Episcopal 48-21. Anthony Buie had 205 yards rushing in the win.

It was not as happy a show down the road in Starke. Bradford County lost to an explosive Keystone Heights team 35-12.

The Baldwin Indians were shocked by Eagles View 36-28. The difference was the passing by the Warriors.

Turnovers doomed the Raines Vikings in their loss to the powerful Jackson Tigers. The Vikings had five turnovers and Jackson capitalized for a 27-0 victory.

Suwannee County got off on a winning start with a 28-7 cross border win over Hamilton County.

Alachua Santa Fe had an evening to forget with powerful Newberry. The Indians handed the Raiders a 41-point loss.

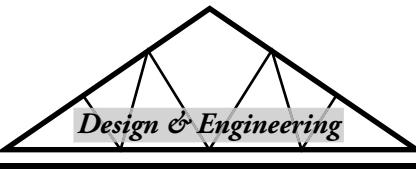
The Apaches of Arlington Country Day lost 48-6 to Yulee.

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One thing was clear to me where the Wildcat game was concerned on Friday night.

Despite all the miscues and turnovers as the game went on, what made the difference was all the time spent in the weight room over the summer.

All summer long Coach Bobby Johns had his players at the BCHS gym working on conditioning, and as the game progressed it became obvious. Early in the game the teams looked pretty evenly matched, but as early as the second quarter it was clear that the Raiders were being worn down by the Wildcats.

As the game progressed, the Cats pushed the Crescent City defense around and won the battle at the line of scrimmage. It wasn't a particularly hot night, but it was muggy and the turf was spongy so it took a lot out of the players. By the second half, the

battle up front was clearly being won by BCHS.

Johns and his staff push conditioning every year and he claims that he doesn't want anybody beating up on the Wildcats in the fourth quarter. It certainly didn't happen against Crescent City.

I am glad college football is back. My wife and sons took in the Gator game at the Swamp. You might have seen them on the television — they were the ones in orange and blue. As I write this I am watching Craig Yarborough and the Seminoles (see related story) play the Hurricanes. The Noles are up by a touchdown in the fourth quarter and I am holding my breath.

• There were a couple of big upsets on opening weekend, the biggest of which was BYU over Oklahoma. The most surprising game was William and Mary beating Virginia. The two schools are only about an hour away. In soccer they call a game like that a "local derby" and there is no way to predict those kind of games.

It's going to be a fun season.

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SPORTS



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SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

SPORTS NOTICE SUBMISSIONS

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Wildcats outmuscle Crescent Raiders

After a slow start, post a 47-7 victory

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

reporter@bakercountypress.com

After a shaky start, the Baker High Wildcats erased all memories of their Kickoff Classic struggle by defeating Crescent City 47-7 on the road in the opener for both teams September 4.

It was not a pretty start as the Cats and Raiders combined to turn the ball over six times in the first half.

"We made mistakes early in the ball game," said Head Coach Bobby Johns. "We had to regroup ourselves and we couldn't lose confidence in what we were doing."

The Cats settled down and despite soggy conditions started to impose their physical dominance on the Raiders as the game progressed. The Wildcats manhandled the Raiders in the trenches, and after giving up an early score to Crescent City they took control of the game and scored 47 unanswered points.

Coach Bobby Johns had made a lot of changes in the lineup that took the field against West Nassau. Mardreakus Ford lined up behind center Terry Givens. Ford managed the game well and fullback Rueben Jackson and tailback Harold Moore made a good combination of power and speed.

The opening drive looked promising as BCHS went deep into Raider territory behind Jackson and Moore, but soon turned the ball over. It didn't take long for Crescent City to return the favor with Klate Duval picking off a Steven Baker pass.

Both teams kept handing the ball back to one another before Baker shocked the Cats with a pass to Mark Dock in the end zone. Dock made a one-handed circus catch, pulling the ball down for the score.

If it did anything, the Raiders' 7-0 lead seemed to wake up the Wildcats. From then on, they stopped turning over the ball and got serious.

"Our kids have been through a lot of adversity over the last few years," coach Johns said. "We weren't going to let something like that get us down."

The Cats drove down the field as the sloppy first quarter came to an end, and Ford found Tymachee Givens for the score. Kendrick Sampson booted the extra point to tie the score.

After that, the Raiders seemed to deflate like a balloon and all the off-season conditioning kicked in for BCHS. As the second period progressed, BCHS looked stronger than the Raiders and pushed them around at the point of attack and open holes.



Junior William Wheeler and another Wildcat defender pursue the Raider quarterback.

back position and found Darvin Ruise in the corner of the end zone for a score.

The final score came off a two-yard rush by John Ford.

The Cats had 350 yards rushing on 45 carries while holding Crescent City to under 100 yards in total offense. Moore notched the first of what will likely be several 100-yard plus games this season.

The Wildcats will return home this Friday, September 11, against Trinity Christian. After a two-hour drive south to start the regular season in Crescent City, the Wildcats will be glad to keep the bus in the parking lot for the first time this year.

"We didn't have anywhere to dress when we got down their last week," said Coach Johns. "So it kind of gets you out of your game plan. But I thought our kids responded well and did a great job playing on those field conditions."

Coach Johns is hoping for better weather this week at home so he can open up the offense a little against Trinity. Although running the option and airing the ball out are important to his offense, Coach Johns knows intensity will be key to winning on Friday night.

"We usually play pretty good at home," said coach Johns. "I'm just concerned they're going to be more motivated than we are."

The game starts at 7:30 pm at Memorial Stadium.

Joe Daraskevich contributed to this story.



In the Locker Room

with Coach Bobby Johns

Don't engrave our names on the trophy just yet!

This past Friday night a different Wildcat football team took the field against Crescent City. The team that played so uninspired against West Nassau last week was nowhere to be found. I hope they never show up again.

I say don't get the trophy ready yet because we did beat a scrappy 1A football team, but nowhere near the type of football team we will face along the road this season.

I will say this – it was one of the most physical games our kids have ever played. We hit people harder than we probably have in a long time and by the second half, we were able to wear them down and control the game.

This week we will face a Trinity team that will be hungry for revenge. After last year's game, there is no doubt we will be on the field with a highly motivated team bent on proving that we are not the team we hope we are.

It will be a war, without a doubt, and I hope our kids realize the effort it will take to win. This game will set the tone for the rest of our season and we need all of Baker County at Memorial Stadium Friday night for the 7:30 kickoff.

Join us as we bring the "Wildcat Train" home to Baker County. Hope to see you there.

Go Wildcats!

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Craig Yarbrough with his mother Tami, dad Lynn and brother Chad.

to this point but feels he wouldn't have gotten anywhere if he didn't have such a strong religious background.

"I got where I have because of my lord and savior Jesus Christ," said Yarbrough. "My family is a big influence in my life, and so is my Lord."

Though he's now playing football in the Atlantic Coast Confer-

ence, but he will never forget the county he came from.

"I love Baker County with all my heart," said Yarbrough. "I wouldn't have wanted to grow up anywhere else."

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Monday 5:00 PM

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