

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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50¢

DECEMBER 31, 2009 THURSDAY

Top 10 for '09

Recap of the year's headline grabbers

1 ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

The top story of 2009 — the sagging economy — manifested itself in many ways in Baker County. Like the rest of the nation, there was the rising unemployment rate and more demand for public housing and other assistance programs.

At the beginning of the year, the jobless rate here stood at close to 8 percent or twice the number of unemployed during 2007. By last month, local unemployment rose to 11.6 percent, according to figures from the state's Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Baker County's November unemployment surpassed the national rate of 9.4 percent and Florida's overall unemployment rate of 11.5 percent, which was the highest since May 1975.

As a result of the demand for public assistance, namely in housing, job placement and food stamps, shot up as well.

Due to unusually long waiting lists for public housing, the Macclenny Housing Authority and the county's Section 8 program stopped accepting applications March 1. The change only affected the housing authority's one and two bedroom units while three and four bedrooms units, which have the highest turnover, remained available.

Baker County's Section 8 program, which provides tenants with vouchers for units owned by private landlords that take part in the program, reported that it stopped accepting applications altogether, waiting for the year-long backlog to begin clearing.

Judy Whisman, the county's Section 8 coordinator, said there were 221

people waiting for about 130 voucher-funded units. The latter figure can vary from time to time as landlords enter and leave the program.

Worksource, the region's federally-funded job placement agency, also reported a dramatic reduction in private-sector employment opportunities at a

with nearly 100 other like-minded residents, county commissioners voted unanimously September 3 to leave the tax rate at \$7.14 per \$1000 of taxable property value.

Even so, the board needed to balance its \$33 million spending plan with \$895,000 in reserves.

"Next year, unless the Lord blesses us two-fold, we are going to have a day of reckoning," predicted Commissioner Michael Crews after thanking past and present commissioners for building up the county's rainy-day fund, which reached \$11 million two years ago.

Although Macclenny city commissioners were urged by a handful of constituents to lower property taxes and cut their budget, the board adopted a \$6.2 million spending plan for 2009-10 that included a \$18,000 tax hike and raises for city employees.

Florida started with a \$6 billion dollar hole its 2009-10 budget, but passed a \$66.5 billion spending package in May. In doing so, state legislators cut many of Baker County's revenue streams while bolstering others.

On the plus side, the state expected to spend about \$23 more per student in Baker County public schools, said district finance director Marcelle Richardson, but overall allocations dropped about \$128,000.

Other impacts from the state budgeted included a \$20 million hit to one of the state's road improvement grant programs that's heavily used by small counties like ours, an estimated \$13,000 drop for Emily Taber Library and more than \$800 million more in court filing and tag fees statewide.

time when the number of job seekers increased month after month.

Similarly, the number of food stamp participants jumped by 36 percent, from 3042 in May 2008 to 4133 a year later, according to figures from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). When compared to May 2007, food stamp participation, or how many individuals benefit from the program here, had risen 83 percent.

Government budgets tightened as funding dried up

Less commerce in the community also meant less funding for state and local governments, including those in Baker County.

Nonetheless, the county commission held the property tax rate unchanged, which was expected to lower taxes by roughly \$25,000, while the City of Macclenny increased taxes only slightly.

Witnessing a dozen property owners take the podium to protest increased property taxes and its chambers packed



From left are county commissioners Gordon Crews and Alex Robinson, Clerk of Court Al Fraser and county finance director Debbie Perryman during one of this year's budget workshops.



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Above workers put the final touches on one of two cell pods at the \$32 million jail and sheriff's office complex completed this year and opened in June. At left is one of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE officers that accompanied the first influx of inmates from the agency in September. Thirty eight were dropped off that day.



2 NEW JAIL OPENS, ICE INMATES SLOW TO ARRIVE

This year's largest construction project was undoubtedly the new jail and sheriff's administration complex off CR 228 north of Macclenny.

The 512-bed facility opened its doors in June and spent the next few months largely empty, other than 100 or so inmates from the streets of Baker County.

It wasn't until September that 38 federal inmates from Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] arrived, beginning a funding stream of \$84 per inmate per day. It's what Sheriff Joey Dobson expects to use to repay more

than \$42 million bonded to make the project a reality.

While space for sheriff's administrators, deputies, dispatchers and emergency management personnel was occupied immediately, the jail's two cell "pods" have been slow to fill up.

The number of federal inmates, mostly from ICE but also other law enforcement agencies, was fluctuating between about 160 and 200 during mid-November. Sheriff Dobson said at the time projections for November were closer to 300.

"While the detainee population is steadily climbing, we do not yet have the numbers needed to support the staffing levels set by the original projections," he said in a prepared statement announcing jail employee furloughs.

"We must adjust our staffing levels to the detainee level in order to match expenses with income, just like any other business," read the statement.

The furloughs began in the last pay period of October and have continued at one day per pay period for all of the jail's 92 workers. The move didn't impact patrol and investigation departments of the sheriff's office.

The furloughs, expected through

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'Gently used' A 'new' new style

KELLEY LANNIGAN | FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Last August, when Lisa Milton opened Buttons & Zippers, a resale shop specializing in new and gently used clothing and accessories, she was surprised at the response from the public.

Munson, Ruise are selected to All First Coast team

Resale vendors in Macclenny and across the country have seen a rise in store traffic over the last year with more

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PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN
Lisa Milton shows an Abercrombie sweater in her store.

Bank funds get 'swiped'

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

At least six customers of American Enterprise Bank in Macclenny lost a total of \$3300 the week prior to Christmas after a string of fraudulent purchases in South Florida, according to sheriff's office reports.

The stolen funds were replenished within a few days and police are in the early stages of their investigation. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is also assisting.

"The transactions are really odd," said Investigator John Hardin. "They're low dollar amounts, usually below \$100,

and they're mostly at gas stations and convenience stores like Walgreens and CVS."

The fraudulent transactions took place December 18-23 in places like Fort Lauderdale, Naples and Boyton Beach; all were from American Enterprise Bank's VISA check card accounts.

"Normally cases like this, where somebody, say a waiter, is stealing; it won't be just American Enterprise customers," Investigator Hardin said. "That's a little weird, but we're trying to figure it out now."

The two accounts suffering the largest losses were those of a sheriff's deputy, Koty Crews,

and Glen St. Mary resident Nancy Mason.

Mr. Crews reported more than \$915 in unauthorized charges from December 18 while Ms. Mason discovered about \$976 in unexplained spending on December 21.

Police have not determined how the bank accounts became compromised.

"It's too early to say," said Investigator Hardin, adding that it's possible the bank's security measures or VISA's could've been overcome.

According to Deputy Larry Clark's report of Mr. Crews' complaint, the Macclenny resi-

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

How was your 2009?

40% Memorable
30% I'm glad it's over
25% Just another year
5% The best year ever

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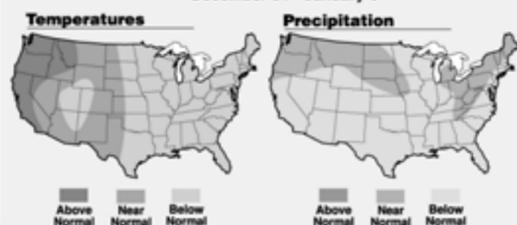
AccuWeather.com

7-Day Forecast

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| Breezy with rain | Partly sunny, breezy and cooler | Cool with a full day of sunshine | Mostly sunny | Plenty of sunshine | Sunny to partly cloudy | Cloudy |
| High: 70° Low: 48° | High: 58° Low: 29° | High: 53° Low: 28° | High: 58° Low: 27° | High: 53° Low: 24° | High: 52° Low: 29° | High: 54° Low: 30° |

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

December 31 - January 6



Tides

| Cedar Key | Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 | Jan. 3 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 5 | Jan. 6 |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| First high | 12:10 a.m. | 1:04 a.m. | 1:56 a.m. | 2:48 a.m. | 3:41 a.m. | 4:37 a.m. | 5:38 a.m. |
| First low | 7:44 a.m. | 8:28 a.m. | 9:11 a.m. | 9:52 a.m. | 10:31 a.m. | 11:10 a.m. | 11:49 a.m. |
| Second high | 2:32 p.m. | 3:06 p.m. | 3:41 p.m. | 4:15 p.m. | 4:48 p.m. | 5:23 p.m. | 6:01 p.m. |
| Second low | 7:27 p.m. | 8:17 p.m. | 9:05 p.m. | 9:55 p.m. | 10:46 p.m. | 11:42 p.m. | --- |

| Jacksonville Beach | Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 | Jan. 3 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 5 | Jan. 6 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| First high | 7:16 a.m. | 8:08 a.m. | 8:59 a.m. | 9:49 a.m. | 10:40 a.m. | 11:30 a.m. | 12:04 a.m. |
| First low | 7:44 a.m. | 8:28 a.m. | 9:11 a.m. | 9:52 a.m. | 10:31 a.m. | 11:10 a.m. | 11:49 a.m. |
| Second high | 2:32 p.m. | 3:06 p.m. | 3:41 p.m. | 4:15 p.m. | 4:48 p.m. | 5:23 p.m. | 6:01 p.m. |
| Second low | 7:27 p.m. | 8:17 p.m. | 9:05 p.m. | 9:55 p.m. | 10:46 p.m. | 11:42 p.m. | --- |

| Mayport | Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 | Jan. 3 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 5 | Jan. 6 |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| First high | 7:49 a.m. | 8:42 a.m. | 9:34 a.m. | 10:25 a.m. | 11:16 a.m. | 12:08 p.m. | 12:46 a.m. |
| First low | 12:55 a.m. | 1:50 a.m. | 2:42 a.m. | 3:36 a.m. | 4:33 a.m. | 5:35 a.m. | 6:41 a.m. |
| Second high | 8:09 p.m. | 9:04 p.m. | 9:59 p.m. | 10:53 p.m. | 11:48 p.m. | --- | 1:02 p.m. |
| Second low | 1:49 p.m. | 2:38 p.m. | 3:27 p.m. | 4:17 p.m. | 5:10 p.m. | 6:06 p.m. | 7:04 p.m. |

| St. Augustine | Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 | Jan. 3 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 5 | Jan. 6 |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| First high | 7:22 a.m. | 8:14 a.m. | 9:05 a.m. | 9:55 a.m. | 10:46 a.m. | 11:36 a.m. | 12:10 a.m. |
| First low | 12:58 a.m. | 1:51 a.m. | 2:42 a.m. | 3:34 a.m. | 4:27 a.m. | 5:24 a.m. | 6:25 a.m. |
| Second high | 7:40 p.m. | 8:34 p.m. | 9:27 p.m. | 10:21 p.m. | 11:15 p.m. | --- | 12:28 p.m. |
| Second low | 1:46 p.m. | 2:34 p.m. | 3:22 p.m. | 4:10 p.m. | 5:00 p.m. | 5:53 p.m. | 6:49 p.m. |

Sun and Moon

Sunrise Thursday 7:25 a.m.
 Sunset Thursday 5:38 p.m.
 Moonrise Thursday 5:42 p.m.
 Moonset Thursday 7:16 a.m.

Full Last New First

Dec 31 Jan 7 Jan 15 Jan 23

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Almanac

Jacksonville week ending Monday, Dec 28.

Temperature
 High/Low for the week 75°/34°
 Normal high/low 64°/43°
 Average temperature 52.6°
 Normal average temperature 53.7°

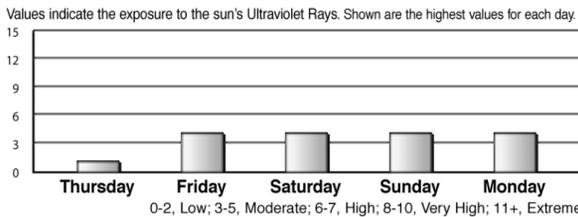
Precipitation
 Total for the week 0.16"
 Total for the month 5.78"
 Total for the year 59.13"
 Normal for the month 2.34"
 Normal for the year 52.04"

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 |
|--------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Dec 31 | 9:53 a.m. | 3:37 a.m. | 10:25 p.m. | 4:09 p.m. |
| Jan 1 | 10:54 a.m. | 4:38 a.m. | 11:26 p.m. | 5:10 p.m. |
| Jan 2 | 11:57 a.m. | 5:42 a.m. | --- | 6:12 p.m. |
| Jan 3 | 12:27 a.m. | 6:46 a.m. | 12:31 a.m. | 7:15 p.m. |
| Jan 4 | 1:35 a.m. | 7:49 a.m. | 2:02 p.m. | 8:16 p.m. |
| Jan 5 | 2:36 a.m. | 8:48 a.m. | 3:01 p.m. | 9:14 p.m. |
| Jan 6 | 3:32 a.m. | 9:44 a.m. | 3:57 p.m. | 10:09 p.m. |

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River Levels

Statistics are for Jacksonville through 7 a.m. Monday

| | Flood stage | Monday | 24-hour change |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| St. John's at Jacksonville | --- | 10.28 | -0.31 |
| St. Marks at Newport | 7.0 | 6.52 | -0.05 |
| Aucilla at Lamont | 9.0 | 6.14 | +0.23 |
| Santa Fe at Fort White | 24.0 | 20.86 | none |
| Suwannee at White Springs | 77.0 | 54.94 | +0.08 |

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

HOLIDAY HOURS:

We will close at 12:00 noon
 Thursday, Dec. 24 & Thursday, Dec. 31

Closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25
 & New Year's Day, Jan. 1

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'Gently used' is now 'new' style

«From page 1 and more people looking for cheaper clothing, furniture, appliances and other items priced at a fraction of the retail cost.

Experts cite the soft economy as the number one reason for this trend. Part of the traffic consists of shoppers who have changed their buying habits and are using the resale stores for the very first time.

"There have always been smart shoppers, as I like to call them, who have utilized the resale shops regardless of the state of the economy," said Ms. Milton. "Growing up, I was taught to shop this way."

Resale stores generate much of their income from clothing sales. They typically determine what the current market price of a clothing item is, then mark it down about 70 percent.

For instance, American Eagle jeans, a popular brand among teens, sell in mall stores for \$40 to \$78. Ms. Milton can offer the same jeans for around \$16.

She carries other name brands such as Abercrombie and Fitch, Express, Hollister and Gap. The Coach and Louis Vuitton handbags sell well also. She says customers seem very happy they get these brands at the prices she is charging.

"Some of the statistics I've seen state that sales of major retailers like Sears are down 10 percent while resale vendor sales have increased by that much," said Ms. Milton.

A survey conducted by the National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops claims the trend might even be higher, averaging a 20 percent increase since last year.

Cathy Rhoden, who has operated Cottage Consignments and Crafts on McIver Street in Macclenny since last June, has seen a very steady stream of customers.

"I think people are thinking more carefully about how they shop," she said. "They're using all resources including resale and consignment shops to economize."

According to Ms. Rhoden, quality used baby items and children's clothing are always in demand. Because children grow so rapidly, it makes sense to penny-conscious parents to spend \$25 and get a large variety of clothing, rather than just one item at full retail price.

She says many clients maintain the clothing in good shape and donate it back to the shop when their children outgrow it.

In consignment, a portion of the sale of an item goes to the store and part to the donating client. But there are exceptions. "When it comes to children's clothes, many clients who re-donate don't want anything in return for the items," said Ms. Rhoden. "They tell me putting the merchandise back in the



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

"Gently used" items for sale in the Buttons & Zippers resale store.

market is their way of helping out another family."

Resale and consignment stores hold frequent sales, often featuring items marked down by 50 percent or the always popular buy one, get one free.

With the growing amount of requests from customers, Ms. Rhoden has begun keeping a "Wanted Board" in the store. If a

customer has a need for specific items not currently in stock, they list them on the board and leave their telephone number. Recently, one customer was able to buy a shower chair that way.

"I think buying resale is just making good economic sense to more and more people," Ms. Rhoden said.



In observance of the Christmas & New Year's holidays, the City of Macclenny will have the following solid waste collection schedule:

No solid waste pickup on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25.

Entire City of Macclenny pickup on Monday, December 28.
 Regular pick up Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: December 29, 30, and 31.

No solid waste pickup on New Year's Day, Friday, January 1.

Entire City of Macclenny pickup on Monday, January 4.

Citywide Cleanup

January 4 - January 29

Place unwanted household items by the side of the road for free pickup during these dates.

Help us keep our city clean!!!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Accounts 'swiped'

«From page 1

dent said his bank reported that somebody hacked into a credit card system and used information on file for about 120 Mercantile Bank customers, as well as account holders at American Enterprise.

A call to Mercantile for confirmation that its customers were affected was not returned.

An official with American Enterprise, who asked not to be identified because they weren't authorized to discuss the fraud cases, confirmed at least six accounts were compromised there and said other banks in Northeast Florida were affected too.

Financial institutions routinely refund accounts that fall prey to fraudulent transactions.

"The victims in these cases are the banks," the official said.

• Two unrelated incidents of unauthorized credit card use occurring in Baker County and Jacksonville were reported this past week as well.

Jessica Davis of Macclenny said she lost her card December 17 and noticed two days later it had been used twice in Macclenny and once in Jacksonville with charges totaling about \$133.

John McNutt of Sanderson said he left his wallet on top of his vehicle at Cuz's One Stop December 15 and found that \$600 was withdrawn from his account the next day at an ATM inside the store.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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2010

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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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'Sully' is the hands-down hero of 2009

Christmas time makes many people nostalgic. New Years does it for me.

IMPRESSIONS

Jim McGauley

The ushering in of a new year causes us, no — forces us, to take a look back on the past 12 months. In past years, I grew to detest the annual year-end edition of the newspaper because it involved going through 51 prior ones, a tedious task in the best of times that always hit when I wanted to be doing something else. And, of course, there's the fact that — like the college term papers of old — I always put it off until the last minute.

Things are a bit different now. We just pick the "top ten" stories — in our judgement — and some of the year's more interesting photos and let it go at that.

Still, 2009 merits comment for things that happened outside Baker County.

The hands-down Hero of 2009 is someone none of us had ever heard of one year ago — Charles "Sully" Sullenberger.

He was, thank God, at the controls of US Air Flight 1549 two weeks into the new year when it lost power hitting a flock of geese on take-off in New York City. We all remember the fuzzy video of that jet making its "wheels-up" emergency landing in the Hudson River between Manhattan and New Jersey. We also remember the stunning photos of 155 passengers and crew standing on the wings and being rescued as the craft drifted with the swift current in the river.

Sullenberger, providentially, is an aviator with a national reputation as an expert in air safety and how to react in an emergency. Listen to the tape of his conversations with controllers on the ground and it only adds to the heroism [and I suppose, we should add, that of the entire flight crew].

This guy is a refreshing breeze that blew through the stale atmosphere over our universe of vacuous celebrities famous for, well, pretty much nothing. Sullenberger's demeanor in the wake of the

Hudson River Miracle was just further proof that he's the real thing. I read the day after the incident that he was seen drinking coffee in an airport shop — unassuming and humbly accepting the expressions of gratitude from passers-by.

There are Sully Sullenbergers among us, doing heroic things both big and small. Doing what he did makes him the "no brainer" Top Dog of 2009.

I can't let this year-end column go without mentioning another stunner — the speed with which the American left has moved its agenda forward since capturing the White House and

both chambers of Congress one year ago.

Hopefully, a year from now we'll be able to say it was too much, too fast for the American people, that they struck back and struck back hard in the congressional elections of 2010.

It was a dizzying year of stimulus spending, bulldozing private sector banking and car companies, "cap and trade" and "reforming" the health care system in this country — both of which continue to be ongoing political sagas. I sensed the liberal left and its high church the Democrat Party planned to move fast, but not this fast.

As for Mr. Obama, many of us who did not vote for him [I know of no one in private business who

did — if you're out there, please identify yourselves] entered 2009 wanting to give the guy a chance. He was truly an unknown with virtually no executive experience but what the heck — he's president for four years and it's our country so why not wish him well?

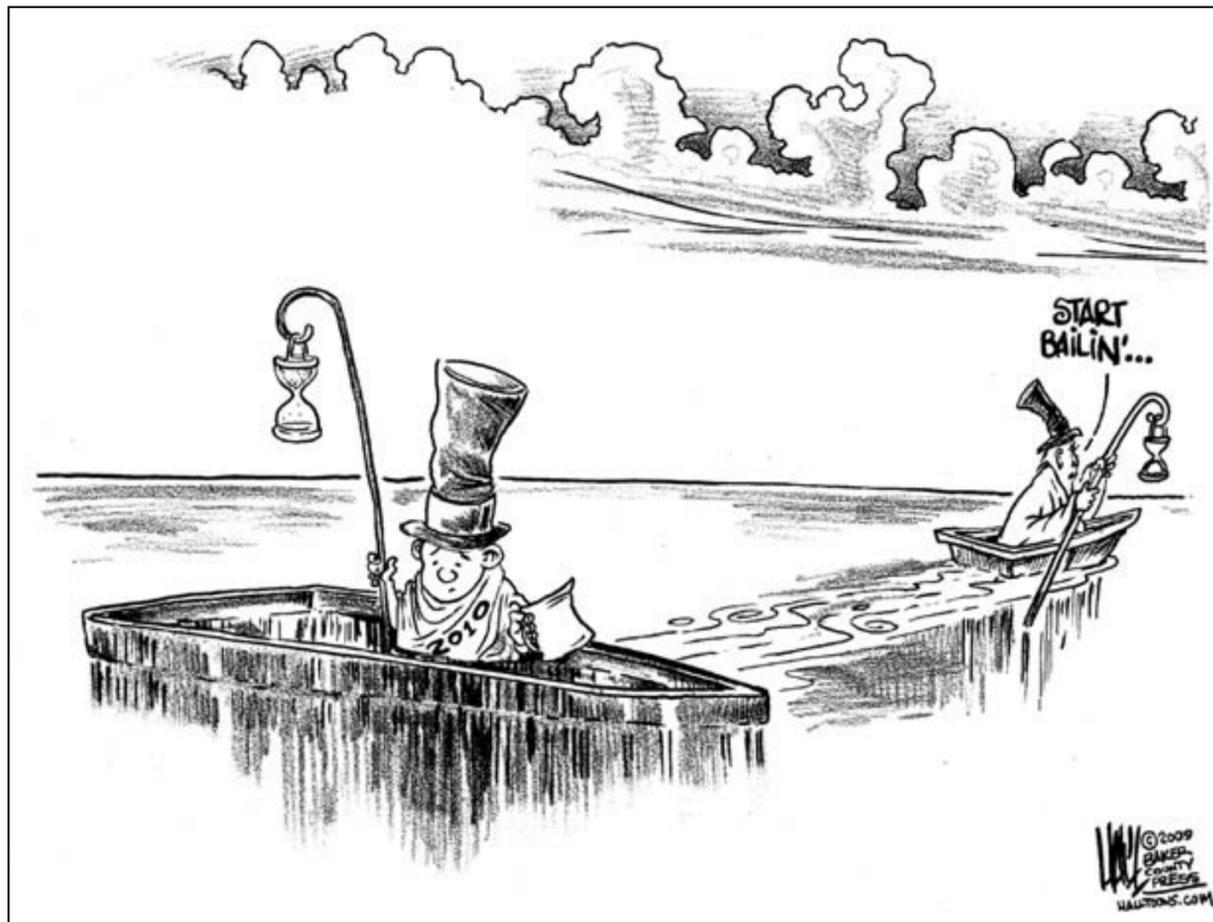
So far, he's shown himself to be little more than a preening narcissist given to speechifying [with an addiction to the Teleprompter] and flying around on Air Force One. We'll see how this year goes but I ain't optimistic.

As for the Baker County scene, 2009 was the year we all had to truly start coping with the economic slowdown. Not to belittle those among us who lost jobs and lost value in their most

valuable asset — their homes, but I suspect things are worse in many other parts of the country. Rural areas are overall faring better than urban, and southern states better than the northeast and far west.

The very last people I listen to when it comes to assessing the economic situation are the government and Big Media. Look around yourself and make your own assessment. Things have changed, we're not getting the Cedar Creek development or another large retail center near Interstate 10, the real estate market is in the tank and most of us have had to re-set our spending priorities. But we're doing okay.

Happy New Year.



Impressed by the gifts he received at Christmas

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

So much noise!

In her bedroom next to my office, daughter Sara Beth is blaring her iPod full bore while she packs for Tennessee.

In the family room, a crowd of boys is playing Beatles Rock Band at full blast. They are "singing" Beatles songs they barely know, like "I Am the Walrus," at the top of their lungs.

Me, I'm trying to write for the newspaper.

Lucy in the sky with Diamonds.

So, if whatever I'm writing seems a little more out of joint than normal, at least this week I have an excuse. Christmas is over and it's time to play with stuff.

It was a great Christmas and I'm not exaggerating. Not just the present getting but how the kids put so much thought into what they bought for everyone. They really enjoyed the gift giving more than the gift getting this year.

Of course, the gifts themselves

reflected everyone's quirky personalities.

Son Spencer had bought his brother a painting of a Cheetah in a tuxedo with a patch over his eye. His brother took one look at it and declared it was the best present ever!

I don't even know where one gets a picture of a Cheetah in a tuxedo. His grandfather, who was a little confused by it, declared, "A one-eyed dog will bite." That got taken up as the saying of the day.

You say you've got a revolution.

Son Dylan had found me a pair of T-shirts from *A Christmas Story*, one of my favorite movies. The yellow shirt had a picture of infamous leg lamp and the green shirt said simply, "I triple-dog dare you." I love them, of course, and wore them around all holiday.

Wife Kelley got a great gift from the kids. They had their friend Josh Wicker take photos of them in holiday colors at Heritage Park and put them into a frame that said *Family*. He did a beautiful job and the pictures were terrific. Kelley teared up at it, a sure sign of a good gift in our family.

We all live in a Yellow Submarine.

Sister-in-law Debbie got me a gift that is, well, indescribable. I'll try but you have to see it to appreciate it. Not that you ever will.

It's one of those shower kilts with my name monogrammed on what can only be called the crotch. It's a terry cloth kilt-skirty thing that you put on after a shower. If I wasn't afraid of mak-

ing people lose their lunch or collapse in a fit, I'd take a picture of me wearing it. I just don't want to be responsible for the destruction of civilization as we know it.

Sara got a pink Snuggie. I had meant it as a joke since I have loudly complained (can you loudly complain in a newspaper column?) about them a couple of times.

Ironically, she squealed and ran around the room with it yelling, "I've got a Snuggie!" She was thrilled.

Helter Skelter, Helter Skelter.

It has been a very bittersweet Christmas holiday for us. Sara Beth is packing and moving to Tennessee at least through the summer. She received an internship acting and costuming and doing tech work at the Cumberland Playhouse in Crossville.

It's a wonderful theatre and acting company and we're very happy for her. If they like her they'll take her into the company. Baker County native Britt Hancock acts there when he isn't on national tours and introduced her around.

We're very happy but sad at the same time. Other than when she was at FSU the whole crew has lived at home. Everybody's a little shaky.

Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away.

Sara is worried about freezing. She's cold-natured anyway and is trying to figure out a way to make her pink Snuggie attach so she can walk around in it. I told her she'd look like a pink monk, but she doesn't care. "I'm freezin'."

So, all in all, it was a great holiday full of good cheer and good music.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dive for Roloids

Dear Editor:

I am up here in cold and snowy Wisconsin and I read *The Baker County Press* with a lot of fond remembrances of Christmas in north Florida.

I read about the Christmas parade and how the lights were all up and how citizens were gathering toys for the disadvantaged kids, and then I read about that guy [destroying] the sexual predator sign. I also read that self-serving letter his wife wrote.

After I read about that burglar who was stealing guns to sell to other criminals and was robbed himself, I made a deep dive into my Roloids supply.

Bah, humbug on these two! The thief should be turned over to the feds for dealing in stolen guns, and that molester is lucky he doesn't have to wear that sign around his neck!

Ya'll have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kim Yarbrough

Class of 1966
Caledonia, Wisconsin

Not one of her children

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a correction to the obituary of Marie Carter that was published in last week's newspaper.

The name of Chris Dyess, one of her children, was omitted and my name was included. I am not Marie's child.

Cyndi L. Crews

Macclenny

Praiseworthy

Dear Editor:

Recently while traveling North through Florida, we experienced a steering problem and we stopped at Mixon Tire and Lube in Macclenny. They promptly serviced our tires, corrected the problem, and insisted that there was no charge.

Such an experience is rare in today's society. They are worthy of praise and recognition, and are a tribute to the community of Macclenny.

Jay and Mary Gibson

Naples, FL

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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Top stories of 2009 ...

« From page 1

February, save the Baker Correctional Development Corporation — the non-profit charged with managing the facility and paying back the bonds — about \$36,600 a month.

The sheriff's office administration chief Brian Bishop reported December 29 there were 135 ICE detainees with 50 more expected this week.

A tele-conferencing system that will allow detainees to attend court hearings remotely from the jail is expected to increase the ICE inmate population. It's expected to launch in mid-January, Mr. Bishop said.

3 HALEIGH CUMMINGS GOES MISSING

Though it happened 80 miles away, the disappearance of Haleigh Cummings from her Clay County mobile home reverberated through Baker County, as the 5-year-old's mother, Glen St. Mary resident Crystal Sheffield, coped with the tragedy along with Haleigh's paternal relatives here.

Her grand-aunt Patricia Yeomans, a school bus driver along with Haleigh's grandmother Marie Griffis, began organizing fundraisers and other displays to keep the youth's name and face in the public eye.

One example came in late-February, about two weeks after the disappearance. On each of the buses at the school district's Lowder Street garage, a pink ribbon was tied to the grill in Haleigh's honor.

"She has a lot of friends here," said Ms. Yeomans after finishing her route February 24. "We got to talking about how we could support Haleigh and Marie and help to get the word out. We decided on the bus ribbons and made pins and flyers. We're working on having shirts made, too."

A few months later, with new leads to police drying up and the media frenzy taking its toll, Ms. Sheffield and her mother, who had been camping near the Satsuma neighborhood from which Haleigh disappeared, returned to Baker County.

"The stress down there was just a little too much for her," Ms. Griffis said. "... Now that we're home, we're doing good. Besides Haleigh being missing, everything's gone back to normal as far as our daily routines."

That routine changed the morning of June 26, when authorities spent about six hours searching 45 acres and two ponds at the family's Mud Lake Road property with cadaver dogs.

The property had been scoured two days after the disappearance in February, but reports from the family that animals like horses and goats were buried there prompted investigators to rule out human remains.

"There's no reason to believe it's not an animal," said Putnam County Sheriff's Office Detective Dominic Piscitello, who was joined by 40 officers from his department and others from the Jacksonville and Baker County sheriff's offices.

Officers did find drug paraphernalia inside a cigarette pack in the 1991 green and white Ford registered to Jesse Watkins on the opposite side of the property away and far from the family's mobile homes.

Flyers urging anyone with information about Haleigh's disappearance to call authorities still remain at many area businesses.

4 SWINE FLU KILLS 1 LOCALLY, INFECTS AT LEAST 4



Sixteen-year-old Melissa Rambo receives the nasal spray form of the H1N1 vaccine.

Our area went relatively unscathed by the spread of the newest strain of the influenza virus commonly called swine flu.

Known officially as the H1N1 virus, it first appeared in Baker County last July when lab tests confirmed two male patients at Northeast Florida State Hospital were infected.

Hospital staff quickly isolated the patients after they displayed flu-like symptoms and results from a rapid influenza A test came back positive. Health depart-

ment epidemiologist Vivian Crews said 90 percent of the time, influenza A turns out to be swine flu.

The results triggered the disbursement of Tamiflu, a drug used for both treatment and prevention of influenza, to 52 other patients and 80 staff members, plus the quarantine of two living areas at the facility.

The quarantine was lifted by mid-month and both men survived, unlike a 52-year-old Macclenny woman who died in a Jacksonville hospital in late September from H1N1.

The unemployed woman, who was not identified by health officials, had a number of underlying health problems.

To ward off further infections, the Baker County Health Department held its first public swine flu vaccination clinic at the high school gymnasium October 31, administering close to 300 doses.

The clinic targeted groups the most at-risk for H1N1 including anyone six months to 24 years old, pregnant women, those with chronic medical conditions or a weak immune system, people who live with or care for infants less than six months old and health care professionals.

Vaccines also began reaching private clinics inside Walgreens and CVS stores as the number of swine flu deaths statewide reached 140. Reported hospitalizations from the virus reached 1187 while deaths hit 186 by December 22.

The vaccines remain available at the health department, 84 W. Lowder St. Call 259-6291 ext. 2230 for an appointment.

5 PRIVATIZERS THREATEN NEFSH



Rep. Janet Adkins and county commissioner Mike Griffis.

Fifty years after being established, Northeast Florida State Hospital battled yet another attempted take over by private health care interests.

In the face of overwhelming community support to keep the hospital public, state legislators eventually scrapped a proposal to privatize the facility and save the state more than \$3 million during budget negotiations in late April.

The state senate eliminated a similar provision in its budget package a month earlier after 100-plus residents, government officials and hospital staffers traveled to Tallahassee to voice their opposition to privatization efforts reportedly being pushed Boca Raton-based GEO Care Inc., which manages three hospitals in South Florida.

Leading the effort were state senator Charlie Dean and house representative Janet Adkins.

"I am grateful the house agreed to keep Northeast Florida State Hospital as a state facility," said Ms. Adkins, a Fernandina Beach Republican whose district includes Baker County. "This is a very important issue to my constituents and the families in Baker County."

NEFSH supporters feared that turning over management of the facility could lead to layoffs, reductions in benefits, relocation of the hospital to another part of the state, or all of the above.

And while the privatization proposal was defeated in 2009, local officials have said they expect the fight to continue during the 2010 legislative session.

The legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, or OPPAGA, conducted an inquiry at the facility last summer. According to County Commissioner Michael Crews, OPPAGA staffers asked questions that led him to believe their eventual findings would reflect negatively on the hospital and its current management.

6 SANDERSON MAN STABBED TO DEATH

The murder of Sanderson resident Sterling F. Howell was one of the most tragic events of 2009. A day before his 57th birthday, Mr. Howell was stabbed to death near his home off S. CR 229 the evening of April 1 in what Sheriff Joey Dobson called a "very violent" attack.

Early the next morning, police had

in custody his neighbor, Aaron M. Fox. The 26-year-old ex-convict was accused of the murder, as well as stealing Mr. Howell's truck.



Aaron Fox

Sheriff Dobson said in a post-arrest press conference that investigators spoke with Mr. Fox's live-in mother, who overheard him talking on his cell phone about obtaining the victim's banking information and that he left wearing gloves.

She called Mr. Howell's residence, but couldn't reach him and later made the call to police reporting a disturbance, the sheriff said.

About two weeks later, a grand jury took about three hours to indict Mr. Fox on charges of first degree murder and robbery with a deadly weapon.

While the accused could receive the death penalty for the murder charge, robbery with a deadly weapon carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. The case still pends.

Mr. Fox was released from state prison in 2007 after serving time for burglary and grand theft. He was also wanted at the time of his arrest in Duval County in connection with a DUI case.

"It doesn't look like we'll be offering him a negotiated plea," said then-assistant state attorney Patrick McClintock, referring to Mr. Fox's status as a prison release re-offender.

Another murder case concluded this year when Melanie Lee Jackson was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for shooting her husband, Kevin Jackson, in the back six times in March, 2008.

The trial took place in May and ended with a revelation — that a female juror had an ongoing relationship with one of Ms. Jackson's sons and didn't disclose it to court officials.

The pair was seen by an investigator leaving the courtroom holding hands. Prior to that, the judge, attorneys and other jurors had no knowledge the two were acquainted.

Judge James Nilon denied Public Defender George Nelson's request for a new trial based on possible misconduct involving the nature of the alleged relationship of juror Amanda Daniels and Ms. Jackson's oldest son James Wallace.

Nearly a dozen family members of victim Kevin Jackson were present in the courtroom for the sentencing. Four family members read personal statements before Judge Nilon while Meloney Jackson sat with her head bowed, looking down.

"I thought I knew about grief," stated Tommie Jackson, mother of the victim. "But I didn't until I lost my son ... she took his life and destroyed her own ... I will not allow myself to hate or allow her selfish actions to embitter me ... I will remember the good years before she changed and cherish those memories."

7 THE DEMISE OF CEDAR CREEK

The bursting of the housing bubble slowed residential growth in Baker County to a virtual standstill during 2009; and the impact could be seen most notably with the now defunct Cedar Creek development.

A few years ago, the 1600-acre residential, recreational and commercial playground for retiring Baby Boomers seemed like an inevitable tidal wave that would change the area for years to come.

This year saw the slow unraveling of that vision.

Cedar Creek's Coral Gables-based manager Adrian Development began defaulting on its financial obligations in 2007 and 2008, which led its investment partner, New York City-based Oracle Partners, to file a lawsuit.

The settlement last spring gave Oracle the Cedar Creek project, along with others Adrian had been managing elsewhere in the state. Within months of hiring an Atlanta-based real estate consulting firm to manage it, about 2200 acres of Cedar Creek's 3000 acres between Glen St. Mary and Margareta on the north side of US 90 was in foreclosure.

Cedar Creek's demise did benefit two other developers planning industrial parks on US 90 at opposite ends of the county.

Dallas-based Jackson-Shaw Co. and Lake Butler's Roberts Land & Timber Investment Corp. funded a traffic variance application submitted by the county that when approved last month by the Florida Department of Transportation [FDOT], allowed thousands more vehicles on I-10 before costly improvements like widening or interchanges will be required by developers.

The added traffic was reserved for



The driver of the pickup that struck the semi above became one of 14 drivers to die this year on Baker County's roadways.

projects that created long-term jobs, a stipulation that Cedar Creek managers weren't happy with. Though their objection to the variance slowed it down, a failure by Oracle to follow-up with documentation eventually solidified FDOT's approval.

The industrial parks are expected to generate more than 5000 new jobs in the area, given development actually takes place. Both projects remain in the planning stages.

8 DUPREE GETS 8 YEARS FOR WNH EMBEZZLEMENT

The odd thing about the theft of nearly \$200,000 from patient accounts at Wells Nursing Home by former employee Kathryn Dupree wasn't that the 36-year-old Macclenny resident thought she could get away with it.

What was really strange was how she spent the money. There were big-ticket purchases like vehicles, a tanning bed and four wheelers; but also an exotic monkey.

The animal was purchased for breeding purposes and required special milk, which Ms. Dupree also bought along with a cage. The animal later died.

A second-floor courtroom was filled with nursing home employees and others the morning of March 23 when Ms. Dupree was sentenced to eight years in prison and 22 years on probation.

The first two years are being spent at a restitution center in Jacksonville, where her pay will be garnished to begin repaying some of the stolen money.

Ms. Dupree, the second Wells employee in recent years caught stealing from patient accounts, turned down a plea agreement before the February 12 trial. She would have gotten a year followed by probation.

A six-member jury deliberated a little more than an hour February 12 before finding the mother guilty of embezzling funds totalling \$193,000 from a patient trust account.

"The scope of this crime is enormous," said prosecuting attorney Geoff Fleck of Gainesville in his closing argument. "This money was from a trust fund for patients and she (Ms. Dupree) betrayed that trust. These are outrageous examples of misconduct."

Even in the face of considerable prison time due to the multiple felony counts — one for grand theft and 43 for fraud — the defendant turned down the state's plea offer to avoid trial.

Regarding the guilty verdict, juror Gary Rosenstone stated, "I hated to do it, but it had to be done. If you break the law in such a way, you have to pay for it."

9 YEAR'S TRAFFIC FATALITIES TIE 2008

The number of people killed on local roadways thus far in 2009 total 14, the same figure logged for all of 2008. Most involved head-on collisions or vehicles that veered off the road into trees, and many victims were not wearing seat belts.

The first occurred just two days into the new year in a three-vehicle mishap north of Sanderson on CR 229.

Hoard Baird, 80, of Sanderson died at the scene just after 4:00 pm when his 1992 Chevrolet sedan was struck by a northbound pickup as the first vehicle was turning south from CR 124.

Neither Mr. Baird nor his seriously injured passenger Mary Taylor were restrained by seat belts, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Lt. Bill Leeper of FHP's Jacksonville district office said the Chevrolet was hit by the pickup after it collided with a 1998 Chevrolet SUV driven by

Brittany N. Taylor, 17, of Glen St. Mary. The SUV was turning south on CR 229 as well, but from a dirt road intersecting from the west.

Other fatal accidents resulted in the death of multiple persons in the same crash.

Two died one hour before sunrise on February 2 in a crushing head-on collision on SR 121 just south of the entrance to Northeast Florida State Hospital.

Trooper Dan Myers of FHP said a southbound 2009 Pontiac crossed the center line about two miles south of Interstate 10 and struck the left front of a northbound 2006 Toyota pickup driven by Arthur Hewett, 61, a construction supervisor from Lake Butler. He died at the scene.

The impact propelled the Pontiac onto the west shoulder where it overturned. The vehicle was occupied by the second fatality, Charles Sharp, 21, of Jacksonville, who also died at the scene. Trooper Myers said he was not wearing a seat belt.

Another dual traffic fatality happened the early evening of June 17 when two of four occupants in a car that left CR 125 north of Glen St. Mary died several hours after being airlifted to Shands Jacksonville.

Daniel Burke, 55, of Massachusetts and Gerald P. Ward, 56, of Sanderson became the seventh and eighth persons killed on Baker County roads this year.

Fire and rescue workers labored for 45 minutes to extricate driver Paul Durant, 57, of Pensacola, who suffered serious injuries, and Mr. Burke from the northbound 2000 Lincoln Continental that had driven off the eastern shoulder and into a large oak tree.

FHP reported the accident was alcohol-related.

The year's fatalities also included a handful of out-of-state residents like Mr. Burke and Kenneth Parrish of Selma North Carolina. Mr. Parrish, 60, was driving east on I-10 near Sanderson when his 2001 Chevrolet left the travel lanes for an unknown reason, crossing the emergency lane and nearby shoulder.

10 MUD BOGGING FIASCO

While new development proposals were pretty rare in 2009, one sparked heated opposition from surrounding residents and even fractured friendships.

Plans for a 20-acre mud bogging pit off Mud Lake Road first surfaced in June when Troy McCullough applied for a temporary use permit from the county to operate the recreational venue for one year.

Roughly 20 neighborhood residents spoke in opposition to the mud bog citing fears of excess noise, littering, traffic congestion, loss in property values and nuisances that accompany large crowds and alcohol consumption.

With the request narrowly denied 3-2, Mr. McCullough appealed the decision to the Baker County Commission.

Travel plans and a death in Mr. McCullough's family delayed that hearing until August, which gave Mud Lake Road residents ample time to further their campaign against the mud bog.

Light green ribbons were tied around mailboxes along the south county thoroughfare and one yard displayed a large sign in the same color that read, "No mud bog in my backyard."

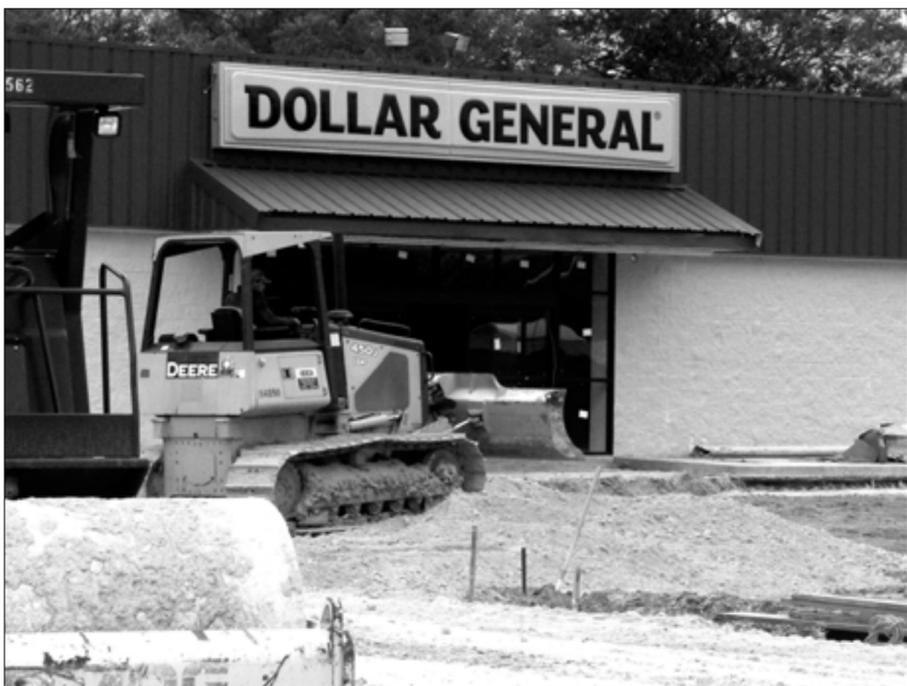
Mr. McCullough eventually withdrew the appeal, but has since said he hopes to establish a mud bog off SR 121 just over the state line in Georgia. Earlier this month he asked county commissioners about their interest in purchasing dirt removed for a future mud bog pit and using county equipment to perform the work. County Manager Joe Cone said last week he doubts that's possible because the county's liability insurance doesn't cover work performed outside Florida.

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Construction at the new Dollar General location in early December.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Store is nearly completed

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

One of the few new construction projects in Baker County is the new Dollar General just northeast of the current location on S. 6th St. in Macclenny.

Given cooperative weather, it's expected for completion in the next 15 to 30 days, said MVG Development Director Tim Greene of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Denver-based MVG owns the half-acre site and will lease it to the discount retailer based in Goodlettsville, Tenn.

"The storefront's complete, some of the rough-ins are done, the drywall is installed; it's coming along pretty well," Mr. Greene said in mid-December. "They're probably getting ready to pave before too long."

The project has moved quickly, breaking ground only two months ago.

The existing Dollar General in Macclenny has outgrown its space in the Baker Square [Winn-Dixie] shopping center, where interviews have been taking place for a new store set-up team.

The company plans to hire about 20 temporary workers to put up shelving and stock inventory once

construction ends. Dollar General also maintains a store in Glen St. Mary and employs seven to eight staff members at both locations.

Earlier this year, it opened a location in Baldwin. The expansion to 9000 square feet in the new prefabricated metal building next to McDonald's is just a small part of the company's nationwide growth, which is also taking place while other retailers are struggling.

Dollar General operates about 8700 stores in the US, plans to open 600 new stores in 2010 and remodel or relocate about 500 other outlets, according to a recent report from Reuters.

"Things are tough, but Dollar General is doing well," Mr. Greene said, citing a recent *Wall Street Journal* report about the company's strong position.

The article states that Dollar General reported fiscal 2008 sales rose about 10 percent, to \$10.5 billion, from the previous year. Other low-cost retailers like Dollar Tree and Family Dollar have seen similar gains. Both also have stores in Macclenny.

The other new construction project occurring within city limits is the Guerry Funeral Home building going up on E. Macclenny Avenue. The existing building is set for demolition.

Discrepancy

A manager at the Country Club Lounge disputed that Selena Roberts, the victim of an alleged attack occurring outside the S. 6th St. bar December 16, is an employee of the establishment, as was stated in the December 24 edition of *The Press* under the headline "Live-in girlfriends are arrested."

A police report of the incident listed Ms. Roberts as a clerk at the lounge.

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SOUTH SIXTH STREET, MACCLENLY

Slams man on head with board

A Macclenny bar patron was arrested during the early morning of December 23 for striking another patron on the head with a board.

Deputy Brandon Kiser said a surveillance video outside Mac's Liquors shows Jeremy Rhoden, 25, hit Mark Crews, 28, also of Macclenny, with one of several boards lying on the ground. The video also shows a male known only as Ricky engaged in the attack.

The accused told the officer he and Mr. Crews argued shortly after 1:00 am when the former accused him of flirting with a girlfriend. The confrontation took place outside the building.

Mr. Crews initially refused transport to Fraser Hospital for treatment of the head laceration, but later went there by private vehicle.

Mr. Rhoden was booked for aggravated battery, a second-degree felony.

County deputies responded to a number of domestic-related fights and incidents over the Christmas holiday weekend, including two on December 24 where criminal complaints were filed against all parties.

Deputy Kevin Jenkins filed domestic battery complaints against Harold Castleberry, 30, his girlfriend Kassie Crews, 22, his ex-wife Meggy Castleberry, 22, and Darrell Perry, 30, following a fight at an address off Arnold Rhoden Rd. west of Glen St. Mary about 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

All of the suspects except Mr. Perry of Glen have Macclenny addresses.

A physical altercation broke out between the two females shortly after Ms. Crews and

Mr. Castleberry returned with the latter's children from a visitation. The ex-wife, who Deputy Jenkins said had been drinking, confronted them about being late and as they scuffled, Mr. Perry, with an infant child in his arms and also smelling of alcohol tangled up with Mr. Castleberry.

The Department of Children and Families was notified because of the presence of the infant and other small children.

• Deputy Jenkins filed complaints against Billy McCrary, 31, his wife Betheny, 29, and his niece Tara Weber, 20, following an early morning fight at a residence off Smokey Rd. west of Glen.

Ms. Weber said she returned about 3:30 and was attacked by the uncle, who was holding her 1-year-old son in his arms. The wife then joined in the fracas and the officer noted in his report all parties were "highly intoxicated." DCF was notified in this case as well.

• Julie Starling was named in a complaint for battery for allegedly striking her brother Timothy Gross, 38, in the head with a milk container during an argument at a residence off CR 125 north the afternoon of December 27.

Ms. Starling denied the accusation, but a witness backed up the brother's version of events that began when he asked his sister to borrow her pickup truck. Deputy Jeffrey Shouse said the incident left Mr. Gross with a bruised right eye.

• The same officer arrested Tommy Bryant, 33, of Sanderson for violating an earlier court order to stay away from estranged wife Jeanne, 33 and their 10-year-old son.

Ms. Bryant said the accused showed up at a residence on Johnny Harvey Rd. the evening of December 27 and made verbal threats against her and David McQuaig, who lives there. He also reportedly threatened the ex-wife in Jacksonville earlier that day, and she reported it to police there.

Mr. Bryant denied the allegations despite a cell phone record indicating he made calls to the ex-wife. He did admit to confronting the son earlier that day.

• Sharonda Ellis, 23, called police about 8:00 am on Christmas Day to say she was attacked in a bedroom at her Sycamore Dr. address by ex-boyfriend Elmo Thompson, 29, also of Macclenny.

Ms. Ellis told Deputy Daniel Nichols the accused held her down on a bed and choked her before her mother and step-father intervened. Mr. Thompson then left the property, but not before taking Ms. Ellis' cell phone.

The complaint alleges domestic battery and petty theft.

• Alicia Cabrera-Thomas told Deputy Shouse she received threatening phone calls Christmas Day from her step-son Jason Thomas, no age or city of residence indicated.

Mr. Thomas, phoned later by the officer, denied the allegation and said he was only returning a call from Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Thomas said he has been receiving similar calls from the step-son at her Osceola Rd. address near Sanderson since the death of her husband. The report notes that she has an active restraining order against Mr. Thomas' mother, with whom he lives.

Forged 3 pre-dated checks

A criminal complaint alleging grand theft and forgery was filed December 21 against a former employee of Wayne Frier Mobile Homes in Macclenny for forging three checks intended for payment of outdoor steps.

Paul Barrow of Jacksonville told police he left the checks in the custody of William Carter, 52, of Glen St. Mary in early September with the understanding they would be cashed on the 9th of the month until the \$1000 cost of the steps was paid off.

The checks were issued for equal amounts, and Mr. Barrow told Deputy Shawn Bishara he left the payee line blank at the suggestion of Mr. Carter, who said he would fill in the company name later with a rubber stamp.

By the time a company representative contacted him seeking payment, Mr. Barrow realized two of the three checks had cleared his bank and the third one bounced because of the early deposit.

Ronald Frazier of the Frier organization furnished samples of Mr. Carter's handwriting, and they matched that of both the payee and endorsement on the checks.

Mr. Frazier said the former employee left the business on Woodlawn Rd. on December 16, a day before his wife reported him missing. He was later said to be with his parents in Kentucky, but Deputy Bishara was unable to make contact with him.

In another case involving theft by an employee, Kimberly Hoenig, 19, of Lawtey, Fla. was charged with stealing an estimated \$1400 from cash drawers at the Macclenny Walmart during a one-month period starting in late November.

A store security worker furnished the sheriff's department

with surveillance video allegedly showing Ms. Hoenig taking cash on eight occasions between November 26 and December 22. The amounts varied from a low of \$20 to a high of \$400 on December 17.

Deputy Daniel Nichols said Ms. Hoenig signed a confession for the store but refused to discuss the allegations with him.

She was booked at county jail for third-degree felony grand theft.

• In a case of shoplifting at the same store, Richard Rhoden, 26, of Jacksonville was named in a criminal complaint after being stopped outside the store by a

county deputy.

Deputy Jeffrey Shouse said he was called by a store security worker about midnight December 22 after Mr. Rhoden and companion Rachel Rhoden, also 26 of the same address, were seen pushing a shopping cart with merchandise into the store lobby.

Deputy Shouse stopped the couple in their 1993 Honda and Mr. Rhoden produced a \$32 cologne set he admitted stealing.

Seeks relics

The Baker County Historical Society is trying to identify properties such as old barns and sheds in the Baker County area that may house interesting collections. The History Channel is interested in the history and memories of such items and the people who own or collect them and will be producing a show on this topic to air in 2010. Please contact Kevin Shell for more information at kdshell@nefcom.net or call 259-9739.

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Your Friendship Gives Us Cause For Celebration

Amidst all the preparations and festivities, we'd like to take a moment, to let you know just how very much we value your friendship and wish you a very happy and prosperous 2010.

DON'T FORGET Homestead Exemptions January 1 - March 1.

Baker County Property Appraiser
Tim Sweat & Staff

Wishing You A Very Good Year!

Here's to our acquaintances, both old and new, because we owe our success to each one of you - And as another year comes marching on in, we send our best wishes to you and your kin with the hope that the year 2010 will bring you around to see us again!



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| Svedka & 3 Olives 1.75L | \$24 ⁹⁹ | | Canadian Mist | \$19 ⁹⁹ |
| McCormick, Barton, Crystal Palace 1.75L | \$13 ⁹⁹ | RUM | | |
| BOURBON | | Jose Cuervo 1.75L | \$19 ⁹⁹ - \$35 ⁹⁹ | |
| Jack Daniels 750mL | \$20 ⁹⁹ - \$36 ⁹⁹ | Margaritaville 750mL | \$16 ⁹⁹ - \$29 ⁹⁹ | |
| Jim Beam | \$22 ⁹⁹ | Patron 375mL | \$27 ⁹⁹ - \$39 ⁹⁹ | |
| Evan Williams | \$19 ⁹⁹ | Bacardi & Silver Myers | \$19 ⁹⁹ | |
| | | Captain Morgan | \$22 ⁹⁹ | |
| | | Malibu & Parrot Bay | \$22 ⁹⁹ | |
| | | Ron Rico | \$16 ⁹⁹ | |

Police chase down man for 2 vehicle burglaries

Sheriff's deputies arrested a Jacksonville man early on Christmas Eve morning for the burglary of two vehicles off Marvin Lauramore Rd. north of Macclenny.

Timothy Dugger called police when he went outside his residence about 5:15 am and noticed the interior light on in his wife's 2002 Chevrolet SUV and a male subject seated inside.

By the time he retrieved a spotlight, the suspect was driving away in a 1990 Chevrolet sedan and Mr. Dugger followed him, noting the license number as he called police.

The suspect, later identified as Jarett Newcomer, 31, drove down CR 23D to the dead end at Oak Grove Church, then exited back toward SR 121 to the east as Mr. Dugger attempted to block the pavement.

Deputy Chris Walker got behind the vehicle and noted the matching license before he and two other deputies pulled over Mr. Newcomer near 121 and CR 23A north of Macclenny. During a subsequent search, Deputy Walker said he found change on the suspect believed stolen from Ms. Lauramore's vehicle.

Mr. Newcomer said he had left his girlfriend's home to get a drink; the girlfriend told police he left her house to get cigarettes.

He was booked on two counts of burglary to a vehicle, third-degree felonies. Nothing was reported taken from Mr. Lauramore's truck.

In other recent reports:
• Vince Farnesi said a half dozen chainsaws belonging to him

Warned earlier on reckless ATV rides

Police arrested a 15-year-old male at his west Macclenny residence after several warnings about driving recklessly through neighborhoods on a four-wheel ATV and eluding pursuing deputies.

Deputy Daniel Nichols was one of two officers who responded Christmas Day afternoon to renewed complaints about the youth speeding both on- and off-road near pedestrian and other traffic.

The officer said he spotted the boy, whose identity he knew, near South Boulevard about 3:30 and chased him at high speeds until he lost sight of the ATV when it drove into a wooded area near the residence of the boy's mother on South Boulevard.

While he was speaking with the mother, who initially suggested the fleeing rider may be someone other than her son, Deputy Nichols signaled Deputy Shawn Bishara to stage near the woods after he heard the sound of the ATV idling.

The boy came into sight fleeing the second deputy, and his mother affirmed his identity when she saw him. The boy once again eluded the pursuing officer.

Later, Deputy Nichols said he went to the suspect's home and he initially denied being on the ATV that afternoon, stating he had been in the bathroom during the earlier visit by the officer. His mother then re-affirmed that she saw him drive off in front of the second deputy.

The boy was charged with high-speed fleeing, a third-degree felony, reckless driving and driving without a license. The Department of Juvenile Justice was notified and ordered him released back into the mother's custody.

In an unrelated case also involving a traffic violation, Christopher Parish, 26, of Macclenny was jailed December 22 for driving on a license with 10 prior suspensions.

Deputy Thomas Dyal said he saw Mr. Parish run through a stop sign about 11:30 that morning at North Boulevard and North 6th and stopped the vehicle nearby.

and brother Marty were taken from an open garage beside his home on River Circle overnight on December 21. The saws, all but one of them gas-powered, had a total value of \$2500.

The brothers suggested to Deputy Shawn Bishara that a neighbor known to have a drug problem may have been responsible.

• Melissa Knight called police the morning of Christmas Eve when she returned home about 10:45 and discovered her residence off Ben Rowe Circle had been entered through a rear window.

Deputy Walker said it appeared someone rummaged through property including Christmas presents in the living room and a bedroom, but Ms. Knight reported nothing taken.

The officer retrieved a piece of blanket from near the window believed to have been used to obscure fingerprints.



Wins queen-size Gator afghan

Jennifer Smith of St. George, GA (right) was the lucky winner of a queen-size Florida Gator afghan given away by the Baker Woman's Political Network recently. Presenting it to her is Janet Harvin, president of the organization. Visitors to the network's booth during the Christmas Parade and craft show in downtown Macclenny earlier this month took chances on winning the afghan. At the same event, the network sponsored a Christmas card signing intended for military personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan and others recovering from wounds at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE POLITICAL NETWORK

Punches woman, horse

A Glen St. Mary man was arrested Christmas Eve night for punching a woman and her horse after he had fallen from another horse while riding in the area of CR 125 south of Taylor.

According to police, Tommy Bryant, 33, became upset and began striking a horse belonging to Stephanie Stelma, 38, also of Glen. She told Deputy Jeff Dawson that Mr. Bryant then turned on her when she admonished him for abusing the animal, and he punched her in the face.

A third rider, identified as Brandi Alford, no age or address listed, dismounted and came to Ms. Stelma's defense and Mr. Bryant allegedly began fighting with her as well.

Ms. Stelma then secured the horses and left the scene to call police.

Deputy Dawson later found Mr. Bryant lying face down and unresponsive on a nearby tram

road. He arrested him for disorderly intoxication.

Ms. Alford was not immediately located after returning to Ms. Stelma's residence off Harris Rd. to retrieve her vehicle, and it is not known if she sustained any injuries from the confrontation. Ms. Stelma had a laceration to the left side of her face.

A complaint for battery was filed against Mr. Bryant, who was arrested three days later for violating a restraining order barring him from contact with his estranged wife and their 10-year-old son.

• Kenneth Gainey, 41, of Sanderson was jailed late on Christmas Day for DUI after a deputy was tipped off to his erratic driving on South 6th near Interstate 10 in Macclenny.

Deputy Ben Anderson said he was advised that Mr. Gainey had nearly struck several vehicles while leaving the Exxon store

south of the interstate, and the officer got behind the vehicle as it crossed I-10. It swerved in and out of the northbound lane several times before he stopped it north of the viaduct.

Mr. Gainey refused to submit to either field sobriety testing or the breathalyzer when he got to county jail.

Dinners cancelled

Cub Scout Pack 555 has cancelled the spaghetti dinners they planned to sell January 9 at the Cornerstone Church on South 7th in Macclenny. They would like to apologize for any inconvenience.

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The following vehicle will be sold at public auction January 22, 2010 at 10:00 am, at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery, 7611 West Mt. Vernon, Glen St. Mary, FL. 32040.
1991 Mazda 4 dr.
VIN #1YVGD22B5M5162383
2009 ASPT Trailer
VIN #NOVIN0200801140
1996 Chevrolet Blazer
VIN #1GNC513W2T2214260
12/31

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Baker County, Florida, on the 19th day of November, 2009, in the cause wherein, COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION was plaintiff and DIANE HODGES was defendant, being Case No. 2005-SC-80 in said Court, I, Joey B. Dobson, as Sheriff of Baker County, Florida have levied upon all the right, title and interest of the defendant, Diane Hodges, in and to the following described personal property, to-wit:

2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU
VIN #: 1G1ND52J616174269
(Note: Anyone interested in viewing the vehicle being sold may do so prior to the time of the sale at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery located at 7611 W Mount Vernon Street, Glen St. Mary, FL.)

I shall offer this property for sale, at the front entrance of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Ave. in Macclenny, FL, County of Baker, State of Florida, on January 12, 2010 at the hour of 11:00a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. I will offer for sale all of the defendant's, Diane Hodges, right, title and interest in the aforesaid personal property, at public auction and will sell the same, subject to taxes, all prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution. (NOTE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Baker County Sheriff's Office at (904) 259-0245 prior to the date of the sale.)

JOEY B. DOBSON,
Sheriff of Baker County, Florida
By: Pamela L. Davis, D.S.

12/10-12/31
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RESTROOM BUILDING - ST. MARY'S SHOALS PARK

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will be accepting proposals for the construction of an approximately 400 sq. ft. restroom toilet building for St. Mary's Shoals Park, Baker County, FL. The building is to be constructed of concrete strip footings and concrete-block walls. Roof is to be wood truss with pre-finished metal roofing and soffits. Toilet building is to contain 4 toilets (3 standard/ 1 ADA) and 3 sinks (2 standard/ 1 ADA) for each sex. Building should include mechanical room. All related plumbing; ventilation; electrical; site work; handicap accessible ramps; and ADA-parking spaces are to be included in the contract. Well and septic are to be subcontracted by contractor. Drawing and submittal of building plans and permitting must be completed by contractor. All work must be completed by February 26, 2010. Project to be completely funded by a grant from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Proposals shall be submitted to the Baker County Board of Commissioners, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 on or before Monday, January 4, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. Submittals should be marked "Shoals Restroom RFP" on the outside of the proposal. All prospective bidders/respondents are hereby cautioned not to contact any County Official other than the specified contact person. Any questions regarding the project should be made to Maurice Postal at (904) 259-3613.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the proposal process, and to award the contract(s) in the best interest of the county. All contracts will be fashioned so as to protect the county's interest.

EOE/ ADA/ FAIR HOUSING JURISDICTION
12/24-12/31

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO: 02-2008-CA-000135

CITIMORTGAGE, INC.,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
JAMIE LEE OAKES, ET AL.,
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION
CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE
TO: LINDA OAKES
whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 49, TOWN OF GLEN ST. MARY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 1, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DAVID J. STERN, ESQ. Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 900 South Pine Island Road #400, Plantation, FL 33324-3920 on or before January 22, 2010, (no later than 30 days from the date of the first publication of this notice of action) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at BAKER COUNTY, Florida, this 15th day of December, 2009.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: Jamie Crews
DEPUTY CLERK

LAW OFFICES OF DAVID J. STERN
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
900 SOUTH PINE ISLAND ROAD SUITE 400
PLANTATION, FL 33324-3920
08-69724FNM

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation should contact COURT ADMINISTRATION, at the BAKER COUNTY Courthouse at 904-259-8113, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.
12/24-12/31

MEETING DATES
Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Hospital Authority Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. and hold a joint meeting with Baker County Medical Services at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The meetings will be held at the Commerce Center 20 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063

The public is invited to attend.

Glenn McKendree, Chairman
Baker County Hospital Authority
12/31

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Baker County, Florida, on the 19th day of November, 2009, in the cause wherein, COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION was plaintiff and WILLIAM E. STEWART, was defendant, being Case No. 2004-CC-318 in said Court, I, Joey B. Dobson, as Sheriff of Baker County, Florida have levied upon all the right, title and interest of the defendant, William E. Stewart, in and to the following described personal property, to-wit:

1999 OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE MINI VAN
VIN #: 1GHD03E8XD167398
(Note: Anyone interested in viewing the vehicle being sold may do so prior to the time of the sale at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery located at 7611 W Mount Vernon Street, Glen St. Mary, FL.)

I shall offer this property for sale, at the front entrance of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Ave. in Macclenny, FL, County of Baker, State of Florida, on January 26, 2010 at the hour of 11:00a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. I will offer for sale all of the defendant's, William E. Stewart, right, title and interest in the aforesaid personal property, at public auction and will sell the same, subject to taxes, all prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution. (NOTE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Baker County Sheriff's Office at (904) 259-0245 prior to the date of the sale.)

JOEY B. DOBSON,
Sheriff of Baker County, Florida
By: Pamela L. Davis, D.S.

12/24-1/14
A, R & R, INC
10525 DUVAL LANE
MACCLENNY, FL 32063
Phone (904) 259-4774

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction January 15, 2010 at 8:00 am at A, R & R INC, 10525 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063.
2004 Cadillac Deville
VIN # 1G6KD54Y64U110109
12/31

2008 Storms Disaster Recovery CDBG Public Comment Period

Baker County has been awarded \$395,781 from HUD and the Florida Department of Community Affairs to undertake eligible recovery activities related to damages caused by Tropical Storm Fay in 2008. Baker County, the City of Macclenny and the Town of Glen St. Mary have decided to use the funding for the repair of roads damaged by Tropical Storm Fay.

Please contact Maurice Postal, Grants Coordinator, Baker County Board of Commissioners, 55 N. 3rd Street, Macclenny, FL. 32063, for a copy of the proposed 2008 Storms Disaster Recovery CDBG grant application. Please submit any comments on the proposed grant application to the above contact person, by mail or in person, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Non-English speaking persons are invited to submit comments on the proposed 2008 Storms Disaster Recovery CDBG grant application. Translation services will be provided by the Baker County Board of Commissioners.

EOE/ ADA/ FAIR HOUSING JURISDICTION
12/24-12/31

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OUR ENTIRE STAFF WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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Inaugural for the 'Tigers in Tune'

5th grade chorus in its debut

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Nancy Mason, a fifth grade teacher at Keller Intermediate, has always loved music and uses it frequently as a tool for teaching. Because Keller didn't have a music program, she decided, in her own small way, to do something about it.

Tigers in Tune, the fifth grade choir she started at the school this year, gave its first performance at a Christmas music concert December 17.

The happy and excited group presented a striking image on stage in coordinated red and black outfits. The program featured eight holiday tunes and among the selections was an old English wassail song called, "Here we come a' caroling."

Wassail songs were traditionally sung at Christmas to wish someone good health and fortune in the coming new year.

Here we come a-caroling among the leaves so green.

Here we come a-wand'ring so fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you.

And to you glad Christmas too.

And God bless you and send



From left: Teacher Nancy Mason directs students Miranda Dehart, Mackenzy Clark, Lily-Anne Drawdy, Alyssa Guidash, Meara Tarte, Noah Schatz, Jordan Griffis and Mallory Godwin. At top is Trista Gibson.

you a Happy New Year and God send you a Happy New Year.

The Tigers sang to pre-recorded music except for one song. During a beautiful performance of "Silent Night," Savannah Jones, daughter of Keller assistant principal Bonnie Jones, accompanied the children on guitar.

"I love music," said Ms. Mason. "I participated in the school choir when I attended the University of North Florida as an education major."

She also minored in theatre arts, another skill that helped her plan, direct and produce the

choir's first performance.

The children started rehearsals last September after auditions were held. A panel of three people auditioned 60 children, choosing 25 to participate. The students had the option of singing their own selection during the audition.

"If they didn't have anything prepared, we had them sing the lyrics of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*," said Ms. Mason.

As the concert date drew near, Tigers In Tune got a warm-up exercise for performing in public by singing at a recent Baker County School Board meeting.

The concert took place in Keller Intermediate's cafeteria. According to Ms. Mason, parents and family members were thrilled and described the children's performance as "sensational."

Ms. Mason said she was grateful for everyone's support and especially for the support of cafeteria staff.

"They worked hard making Christmas cookies so everyone could have some refreshments afterwards," she said.

Ms. Mason and Tigers In Tune are planning another performance next spring.

'Hoppin' John' by any other name

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

It is not known exactly how the custom of consuming black-eyed peas and rice to bring in the new year originated, but many Baker County families will be cooking and serving this traditional fare on New Year's Day 2010.

One local vendor, DD's Sports Bar on West Macclenny Avenue, plans to make the southern delicacy the centerpiece of its menu on New Year's Day.

Louise Pierce of Macclenny has fond memories of eating this traditional New Year's food. She no longer puts in the same time and effort to cook the fresh peas or prepare the same quantity as she used to, but for nostalgia's sake there is still a little on her table every New Year.

"My family always had it for New Year's," she said. "I don't cook large meals anymore so I don't make an entire pot of it like I did in the past. However, I always cook a little rice and get myself a can of black-eyed peas from the store at least."

The traditional New Year's Day meal in the southern United States consists of black-eyed or field peas served over rice and usually flavored with some chopped onion, a ham hock or bacon, salt and sometimes a dash of red pepper. Greens, usually collards, mustard or cabbage, are served with it, along with corn bread.

The rice and peas dish eaten in the South is a version of one traditional throughout the Caribbean. In the Carolinas, rice and peas eaten together are known as Hoppin' John.

A 19th Century travelogue through the southern states kept by Frederick Olmstead states: "The greatest luxury which they are acquainted with is a stew of peas, bacon, rice and red pepper

which they call 'Hoppin' John.'"

No one is entirely sure of the significance of the name, but one story from the low country of South Carolina claims the dish was sold in the streets of Charleston by a crippled vendor known as Hoppin' John.

The foods are symbolic and the meaning of the meal is to demonstrate frugality, thereby creating a better chance of attracting prosperity and luck in the coming year.

"Eat poor on New Year's Day, eat fat the rest of the year," was a popular saying in the past.

Eating Hoppin' John the day after New Year's further demonstrates frugality and is supposed to attract even more luck and prosperity. On that day, the leftover Hoppin' John is referred to as

to her family.

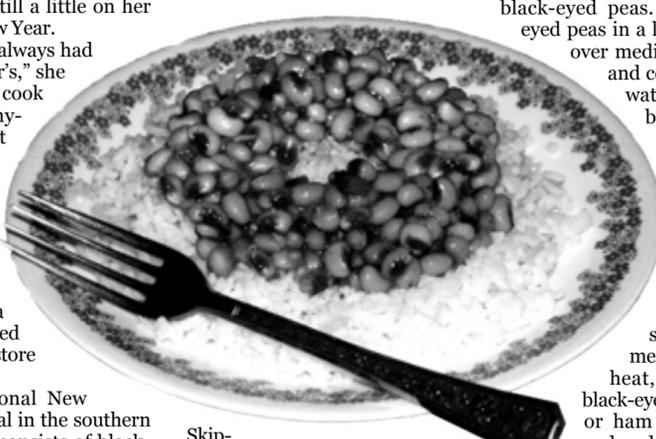
Just before eating, a shiny new dime is stirred into the peas. Whoever ends up with the dime in their serving is supposed to have extra good luck in the coming year.

Hoppin' John Recipe

- 2 cups dried black-eyed peas
- Cold water
- 1 pound lean slab bacon or 1 pound meaty ham hocks
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 4 cups water or chicken broth
- 2 cups uncooked long-grain white rice
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Soak, rinse, and drain dried black-eyed peas. Place black-eyed peas in a large soup pot over medium-high heat and cover with cold water; bring to a boil. Remove from heat; cover and let stand 1 to 2 hours. Drain and rinse beans.

Using the same large soup pot, over medium-high heat, add soaked black-eyed peas, bacon or ham hock, onion, and red pepper. Add water or chicken broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook for



Skip-pin' Jenny.

Peas are symbolic of pennies or coins. A green vegetable is eaten because green is the color of money. The corn bread typically served with the meal on this day has no symbolic meaning — southerners just like it and its good for sopping up the broth from the peas.

Some people cook the peas and rice separately, then ladle the cooked peas over rice before serving. Others prepare the peas, then add the rice to the pot so the two can finish cooking together.

Sally Harvey of Taylor follows another common New Year's Day custom associated with eating peas and rice when she serves it

1 1/2 to 2 hours or until the peas are tender (do not boil as the beans will burst).

Remove bacon or ham hock and cut into bite-size pieces. Return meat to pot. Stir in rice, cover, and cook 20 to 25 minutes or until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed. Remove from heat and season to taste with salt and pepper. Makes 8 servings.

2010

Hope It's Lucky!

Wishing you much happiness and success in the year ahead.

We know we feel lucky to have friends and neighbors like you and we look forward to seeing you again in 2010. Thanks!

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2010

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CONTENTMENT
GOOD FORTUNE

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Have A Noteworthy Year!

In this season of revelry and resolutions, we'd like to pledge our commitment to serving you well in the year ahead.

For your support this past year, we are deeply grateful and wish all of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

2010

Sheriff Joey Dobson

and the staff of the
Baker County Sheriff's Department
bakercountysheriffsoffice.com

WISHING YOU A VERY GOOD YEAR!

HERE'S HOPING YOUR YEAR IS SIMPLY GOLDEN! For all your visits this year, we are sincerely grateful and we welcome the opportunity to serve you again in the year ahead.

Baker County Health Department

480 W. Lowder St.
Macclenny
259-6291
bakercountyhealth.org

MOVIE REVIEW

Avatar an 'experience' But still has elements of Westerns

BOB GERARD
PRESS STAFF

"Wow! That was amazing."
That was what my son kept saying over and over after he saw Avatar in IMAX 3D.

I agree with him.
Though I didn't go the extra distance and see director James Cameron's \$300 million sci-fi/western in IMAX, the 3D experience was enough to convince me what all the buzz was about.

More than just being a film, Avatar is an experience. It is unlike any other 3D movie I've ever seen because it isn't about the tricks. It's about total immersion in the world that Cameron has created.

What a world it is. Pandora is one of the moons of the planet Polyphemus, where a multi-national corporation is drilling for precious minerals. It's also the home of the Na'vi, an 8' tall blue race of people that the miners call "the blue monkeys." The Na'vi are a spiritual people who live in a very dangerous world full of dinosaur-like animals.

It is lush and beautiful and very alien and completely computer generated. That's where the magic lies. Cameron and company have completely built this magnificent world inside a computer and even the Na'vi are computer generated.

But what separates this computer wizardry from other CG films is the fact that after a while you just forget about it. Instead of calling attention to itself after the first 20 minutes of the 2-plus hour movie, you are just watching an incredibly beautiful, very alien world.

Now on to the story, where the movie becomes just a movie. If you want to understand the plot of this movie, think Dances With Wolves meets The Last Samurai. Essentially, Avatar is a traditional Western.

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is a paraplegic Marine who is sent

to Pandora to replace his scientist brother who died during a project to study the Na'vi. Sully is linked to a genetically grown Na'vi avatar. He will live among and study the Na'vi in hopes that they will stop attacking the miners.

But former Marine colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), who heads mine security, has other ideas. He wants Sully to infiltrate the Na'vi and find out all their secrets so that the mercenaries can attack and destroy the Na'vi. As a Marine, Sully agrees.

Sully doesn't have an easy time. On an early expedition with other avatars led by Dr. Grace Worthington (Sigourney Weaver), Sully becomes separated from the rest and lost in the jungle.

He is saved from an attack of vicious wild dogs by Neytiri, a Na'vi female. Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) takes him back to the Na'vi village where her father the chief decides to save his life.

Sounds a lot like every Joel Chandler, Randolph Scott Western I watched as a boy. It is. At this point in the movie, we know

exactly what will happen next. Sully will "go native." He will realize that the civilization that the Na'vi's have built is far superior to the one in which he lives.

He will go through a rite of passage and instead of taming a wild mustang, it will be a dragon-like bird. And finally he will do battle with the mercenaries who want to rape the land.

It's pretty formulaic but the simple fact is that I liked those old Westerns and like this movie, too. Add to that the breathtaking beauty of the CG world Cameron has created and you have a film that is well worth seeing.

Don't look for brilliant acting or emotional depth of character. You won't get it here. If you want that see *Invictus* or *rent Up*.

Instead, just sit back for a thrill ride and get sucked into the world of Pandora. Cameron spent a ton of money to realize his vision and in the end he succeeds brilliantly. In fact, even the Ray Ban 3D glasses look a little stylish after a while.

Avatar is rated PG 13 for violence. I give it 4 out of 4 stars.



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Enroll in Diabetes Self-Management Classes
January 7, 14, 21 & 28
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Baker County Health Department
Call 653-5246 to register
Come at 4:00 pm on January 7 for a free diabetes screening

A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CITY OF MACCLENNY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING REZONING OF LANDS OF THE CITY OF MACCLENNY

The City Commission of the City of Macclenny, Florida shall consider **Ordinance No. 10-01**, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MACCLENNY, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A REZONING REQUEST FROM DAVID MOTLEY, PARCEL I.D. NO. 05-3S-22-0000-0000-0031 & 05-3S-22-0000-0000-0033; REZONING THE LANDS DESCRIBED HEREIN FROM COMMERCIAL GENERAL (CM) TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD); PROVIDING FOR INTENT; AUTHORITY; FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY; FINDINGS OF FACT; SEVERABILITY; RECORDATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

SYNOPSIS: Ordinance No. 10-01 involves an application for PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT of approximately 4 acres of the City of Macclenny. The Subject Property is located at George Hodges Road. The complete legal description by metes and bounds and the ordinance can be obtained from the office of the City Clerk.

FIRST READING: A public hearing on the first reading of the proposed ordinances will be held on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010** in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. There shall be no vote by the City Commission regarding this ordinance at this meeting. The City Commission meeting will begin at **6:00 p.m.** and the public hearing will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the proposed ordinance.

COMMISSION VOTE: A public hearing requiring City Commission action on the proposed ordinance will be held on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010** in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. The City Commission meeting will begin at **6:00 p.m.** and the public hearing will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the proposed ordinance.

The proposed ordinance is available for review at the City Manager's Office, City Hall, on Monday through Friday during regular business hours. Should any person decide to appeal any decision made as a result of this hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of these proceedings is made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Manager at (904) 259-0972 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

With Gratitude And Warm Wishes At The New Year

As another year approaches, we'd like to thank all the folks who have helped to make this past year, a good one for us, and wish you all much health, happiness and good fortune in the year ahead.

NEE.COM

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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.

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.bakercountynews.com

Edwin Becan, 95, of Lake Placid dies

Edwin C. Becan, 95, of Lake Placid, Florida died Saturday, December 26, 2009. He was born in North Bergen, New Jersey to Francis J. and Anna Kara Becan on December 11, 1914. Ed was employed by Lowe Paper Company in Ridgefield, NJ for 43 years before retiring in 1979.



Edwin Becan

He relocated from Elmwood, NJ to Macclenny in 1981 and then on to Lake Placid in 2004 where he resided until his death. Ed was a 4th Degree member and a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He was predeceased by loving wife Elizabeth (Betty) and brother Robert.

Survivors include son Edwin C. Becan Jr.; four grandchildren, including Charles of Macclenny; four great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral Mass was held at 10:00 am on December 30 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Jose Maniyangat officiating. Interment followed at Greenlawn Cemetery in Jacksonville. Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Donald Crawford, 54, business owner

Donald Gene Crawford, 54, of Jacksonville died Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at the Acosta-Rua Center for Caring following an extended illness. He had resided in Jacksonville most of his life and was the son of the late Donald Crawford and Lula Little Crawford.

Mr. Crawford was a self-employed heavy equipment operator and owner of Gene Crawford Landscaping of Jacksonville.

Survivors include daughter Jennifer Crawford of Edgewater, FL; sisters Kathy Edwards of Deltona, FL and Elaine Kichen of Texas; brothers Ricky Crawford of Altamonte Springs, FL, Bill Beck of Two Egg, FL and Hank Miller of St. Augustine; numerous nieces and nephews.

The graveside funeral service was held December 29 at 3:00 pm at the North Prong Cemetery with Rev. Jim Cox officiating. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Watch night service to be held

Vineyard of Love Ministries in Olustee will have a New Year's Eve watch night service with Evangelist Jimmy Albritton. Service will begin at 8:30 pm. Call 397-0455 for more information.

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church

CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
 Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

Dolly Brown, 69, dies December 21

Dolly Mae Brown, 69, of New York, formerly of Baker County, died December 21, 2009. She was the daughter of Arthur Williams and Edna Reed Williams, and attended school in Baker County. She was a very cheerful child.



Dolly Mae Brown

Mrs. Brown attended the Allen Chapel AME Church with her mother and other family members. She later married Norman Wallace. He and son Robert Wallace both preceded her in death. She later married Lane Ruise.

Dollie moved to New York and was employed at Rockland State Hospital where she worked for over 20 years. She then returned home to Florida and married Willie Brown, who also preceded her in death.

Survivors include children Dolly Woodard, Susan Ruise, Michael (Karen) Ruise and Lane J. (Terri) Ruise; brothers Clarence (Rosa) Williams, Curtis (Jimmy) Williams; sisters Deloris (Dave) Williams, Doris Jean Cooley and Bobby Lee (E.L.) Paige; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Magnolia, Lillie, Cloretta, Caldonga and Oweida Williams; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many special friends.

Visitation will be held January 1 from 5-7:00 pm at Allen Chapel AME Church. The funeral service will be held January 2 at 11:00 am at Faith Bible Church with Elder Videll Williams officiating. Toston-La Frans' Funeral Home of Jacksonville is in charge of arrangements.

Windell Davis, 61, of Sanderson dies

Windell Richard Davis, 61, of Sanderson died Friday, December 25, 2009 at the Acosta-Rua Center for Caring in Jacksonville following an extended illness.



Windell Davis

He was a life-long resident of Baker County and the son of the late J.R. Davis and Clarice Hodges Davis. He was formerly employed with Knabb Lands, Inc. and worked at the Glen St. Mary Nursery for over 10 years. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his family.

Survivors include fiancé Mary Lou Carroll of Sanderson; daughters Teresa (Ronald) Lanham and Mandy (Steve) Lanham, both of Altha, FL; sons Joe (Michelle) Davis of Baxter and Kevin (Jessica) Davis of Glen St. Mary; sisters Kathy (Eugene) Mette and Jeannie (Eddie) Wheeler, both of Macclenny, Carol (Mack) Simmons of Sanderson, Wanda (Phillip) Blackburn and Robin (Josh) Collins, both of Taylor and Darlene (Tommy) Johnson of Glen St. Mary; brothers Pee Wee (Nancy) Davis and Gerald (Susan) Davis, both of Taylor, Ronnie Davis and Larry (Tammy) Davis, both of Macclenny; step-children Brenda Sheptock of Alachua, Larry King of Kentucky, Polly King of Louisiana, Troy King of Glen St. Mary, Darrell Crawford and Stacy Crawford, both of Lulu, FL and Sharon Crawford of West Palm Beach; 25 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The graveside funeral service was held December 28 at 2:00 pm at the Macedonia Cemetery with Rev. Albert Starling officiating. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James Farley Jr., 86, Air Force vet

James Madison Farley Jr., 86, of Sanderson died December 23, 2009 at his home. He was born in Dennysville, Maine to James Madison Farley Sr. and Hope Sprague Farley on July 9, 1923.



James Farley

Mr. Farley honorably served in the US Air Force 8th Division during World War II, was a member for 64 years in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and retired in 1985 from Seaboard Coastline after 40 years of service as an electrical supervisor. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge 101 Ionic in Jacksonville.

Mr. Farley lived in Jacksonville for 37 years prior to moving to Huntington, West Virginia, and was a resident of Baker County for the last six years. He loved the outdoors and putting on his farm. He was predeceased by son James M. Farley III and four siblings.

Survivors include his loving wife of 66 years, Mary B. Farley; sisters Eva Rockwell, Deanna LaKing, Susan Carate and Sharon McLaughlin; brothers Dexter and Phillip Farley; daughter-in-law Merri P. Farley; two grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

The memorial service was held December 30 at 2:00 pm at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny.

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Sunday Evening Services 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
 Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all

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 Sunday school ~ 10:00 am
 Sunday service ~ 11:00 am
 Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm
 Family style dinner ~ 1st Sunday of the month following service
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

St. James Episcopal Church
 Minnesota Ave. & 5th Street
 Macclenny
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Lou Towson, Vicar
Christmas Eve Services 5:30 pm - Everyone welcome

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 WJXR Radio Service Sunday. 8:30 am
 Morning Worship Service. 10:30 am
 Children's Church 11:30 am
 Evangelistic 6:00 pm
 Bible Study (Wed.) 7:30 pm
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(904) 259-6977
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 Evening Worship 6:00p.m. • Wednesday Ministries 6:00p.m.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TEMPLE
 Independent Pentecostal Church
 Seventh St. & Ohio Ave., Macclenny
 Senior Pastor David Thomas 259-4940
 Associate Pastor Tim Thomas 259-4575
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm
Radio WJXR 92.1 Sunday 9:15 am
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
 Youth Pastor Gary Crumney
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MACCLENNY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 573 S. 5th St. 259-6059
 Sunday Bible Study 9:45 am
 Fellowship 10:30 am - 11:00 am
 Worship Services 11:00 am
 Wed. Bible Study 7:30 pm
 Minister **Sam F. Kitching**

Macclenny Church of God
Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life
 Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 A.M. Wed. Eve. Worship 7:30 P.M.
Pastor Rev. Shannon Conner
North 6th Street - Macclenny • 259-3500

Watch Night Service
 at
Road to Calvary Church
Thursday, December 31
 from 7:30 pm - 12:00 am
Wednesday evening service is canceled for this week.
 Corner of Madison & Stoddard
 Glen St. Mary

The Road to Calvary
 Corner of Madison & Stoddard
 Glen St. Mary
 Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
 Bro. Edward McDonald, Co-Pastor
Phone: 904-259-2213
 Sunday School: 10:00 am
 Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church
 121 North † 259-4461
 Macclenny, FL
Pastor Tim Cheshire
 Sunday School 9:45 am
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
 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

Calvary Baptist Church
Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
523 North Boulevard W.
 Four blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
Pastor Donnie E. Williams • 259-4529

Margaret Perry dies December 17

Margaret Baker Perry died at the Medical Center of Central Georgia with her beloved family members at her bedside on Thursday, December 17, 2009.



Margaret Perry

Mrs. Perry was born in Helena, Georgia, the daughter of Emmett Franklin Baker and Annie Ruth Noblitt Baker Holton. She lived in Macon most of her life and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and homemaker. She attended Cross Keys Baptist Church, Cherokee Heights Baptist Church and Harvest Cathedral Church. Mrs. Perry was retired from the Georgia Forestry Commission where she served as payroll supervisor. She was a past member and president of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority (Alpha Nu Chapter) and she was an avid gardener.

Mrs. Perry was preceded in death by husband of 48 years, Charles Farris Perry and brother Emmett Franklin Baker Jr.

Survivors include sisters Emily A. Baker of Roberta, GA, Diane Norman, Sharon H. Mallory, Brenda H. Gibbs and Cindi H. Worthington, all of Macclenny; sons CH (CPT) Charles 'Randy' (Brigitte) Perry and Daniel A. Perry, both of Macon; daughter Donna Reynolds and companion Stanley W. Hamlin of Lizella, GA; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; beloved animals Wally, Mickey, Preston and Tabitha.

The funeral service was held December 21 at 11:00 am at Harvest Cathedral with the Reverend Steve Sawyer officiating. Interment followed at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 332 North Lauderdale, Memphis, Tennessee 38105. Hart's Mortuary and Crematory was in charge of arrangements.

George Rhoden, 76, loved fishing

George Wray Rhoden, 76, of Macclenny died December 25, 2009. He was born in Macclenny to Fred Rhoden and Katherine Johns on April 1, 1933 and was a life long resident of Macclenny and a member of the Moose Lodge and the Republican Party.

Mr. Rhoden loved to fish, hunt and travel. He was predeceased by brother Fletcher Rhoden.

Survivors include his wife Molly Melissa O'Neill Rhoden of Macclenny; sons George Bryan (Bridget) Rhoden and Bentley Rhoden, both of Macclenny; step-daughters Britney (Michael) Hurlbert of Glen St. Mary and Cortney Chrystal of Jacksonville, who was inspired and so loved by George; siblings Tommy Johns, Karen Rhoden and Jimmy Johns, all of Macclenny, Fred K. Rhoden of Ponte Vedra; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 2:00 pm on December 29 at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel with Pastor Sam Kitching officiating. Interment followed at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Iris Sorensen, 60, a wonderful artist

Iris L. Sorensen, 60, of Interlachen died Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at North Florida Regional Medical Center after an extended battle with leukemia.

She was a native of Glen St. Mary and had lived in Interlachen the past 13 years, moving there from Beulah, North Dakota. She was a member of the Florahome United Methodist Church and VFW post # 10164 Ladies Auxiliary in Interlachen.

Mrs. Sorensen enjoyed gardening and was a wonderful artist. She loved life and was full of mischief. She was preceded in death by husband Henry A. Sorensen; parents James Warren and Ellen Lindsey; nephews Matthew Forsyth, James Coleman and David Coleman.

Survivors include son Coy (Henry) Sorensen of Interlachen; daughters Denille Sorensen of St. Augustine and Anyse Medwedeff of Gainesville; sister Janice Hawkey of Bull Shoals, Arkansas; brother Wilbur Coleman of Earleton, Florida; five grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on December 29 at the Florahome United Methodist Church with Pastor Louis Tremblay officiating. Interment followed at the Oak Grove Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home, 307 S. Palm Avenue, Palatka, Florida, 32177 to help with funeral expenses.



In Loving Memory Of Our Dad and Husband Dwight Parker Sr. 'Duke'

2-26-1949 - 12/30-2004

Daddy, you were the one that I could talk to and whatever you told me regardless of what it was, I always thought that was the solution to the problem. But now that you're gone, in body but not soul, all I can do is treasure what we already shared.

YOUR LOVING KIDS AND WIFE, PHYLLIS, THOMASINA, KEITH, TARA, DWIGHT JR. AND DESHIKUA

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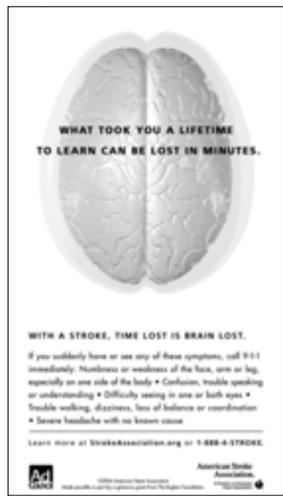
Merry Christmas to you all!

As we approach the New Year, my wish is that God will bless you and your family with the peace and happiness of the season every day throughout the coming year.

Happy 2010!



Sherrie Raulerson, Superintendent of Schools



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Thinking Of You At The New Year

As the celebration begins, we recall the good times we've had this past year serving you, and hope that wherever life takes you in the year ahead, that you are blessed with much love, happiness and good fortune.

With our sincere appreciation for your invaluable friendship and support.



250 North Lowder Street
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DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH

CR 127 N. of Sanderson
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm
Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford
Youth Pastor Brian Poole

Welcome First Baptist Church of Sanderson

CR 229 S., Sanderson FL
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sun. Morning Worship . 11:00 am
Sun. Evening Worship . . 6:00 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study . . 7:00 pm
Pastor Bob Christmas
<http://www.fbcofsanderson.org>

A New Year Is Born!

At the birth of a new year, we wanted to acknowledge all of the people who have helped to make this past year a good one for us, and hope that 2010 brings a bundle of joy, happiness and good fortune your way. Thanks!

Dr. Angelito Tecson

& family and staff
Julie, Lynda & Andrea



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

What would your life look like if you had **NO DEBT** and were really **IN CONTROL** of your money?



Join us Wednesday evenings
January 6 - March 31st
January 6 will be an introduction at 6:30 pm
Seminar begins January 13 at 7:00 pm

Glen Church

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Glen St. Mary

For more information contact:
Kevin Morrison
laser24@nefcom.net
or
daveramsey.com/church/home

Nursery will be available for those with small children.

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.

CONTACT US

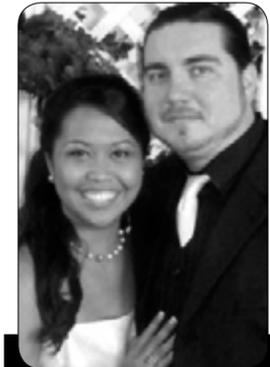
By phone at 904.259.2400 or by fax at 904.259.6502. You can stop by our office located at 104 S. Fifth Street, Macclenny, FL or mail your submission to PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063. We are available online at www.bakercountypress.com



Azalee and Clifford Dugger

Celebrate 50th anniversary with cruise

Azalee "Lee" and Clifford Dugger of Jacksonville, formerly of Baker County, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a 17-night cruise in Italy. They were married January 1, 1960 in Jacksonville. She is the former Azalee Croft. Their children are Sherry Burnham of Jacksonville, Darlene Herold of Glen St. Mary and the late Judy Martin. The Duggers have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



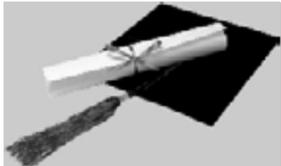
Maloney ~ Hersina

Riza 'Icha' Hersina and Frank Whalen Maloney are pleased to announce their marriage on August 25, 2009 in Jacksonville.

The bride, daughter of Zul-fadlan and Hysje Johana of Balikpapan, East Borneo, Indonesia is employed at the Omni Hotel.

The bridegroom, son of Barbara and Frank E. Maloney, Jr. of Macclenny is the manager of Mavericks Rock N' Honky Tonk at the Jacksonville Landing.

The couple resides in Jacksonville.



CONGRATULATIONS

The parents of Niesha Givens would like to take this time to acknowledge our daughter's hard work and dedication in pursuing her dreams in becoming a Physician's Assistant. Niesha is currently earning her bachelor degree at Florida State College of Jacksonville. She graduated from ACT for Medical Assisting then Sanford Brown and completed the Surgical Tech program. Upon receiving her bachelor's Neisha plans to attend University of Florida for her Masters.

Currently Neisha works at Memorial Hospital five days a week, goes to school full-time and runs a daycare on the weekends. We continue to encourage her because we believe all things are possible through Jesus Christ. We are so proud of Neisha and will continue supporting her! Niesha, we love you and wish you all the best.



Lanore West

Graduates Magna Cum Laude

The family of Lanore West of Sanderson would like to congratulate her on graduating from Florida A&M University on December 11, 2009. Lanore graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of science in psychology and a minor in sociology. She plans to pursue her master degree at UNF. Lanore is the daughter of Joseph and Mary Paige West.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Redneck Cooking donates \$500

The Council on Aging director Mary Baxla (pictured at left) receives a \$500 donations from Fred Martian and Brad Raulerson (at right) of Redneck Cooking. Also shown is the council's financial officer Daphne O'Brien. The money was raised during one of four weekend BBQ dinners offered by Baker Beverage in honor of its 10-year anniversary in October. Redneck Cooking supplied the meals. The council also received recent donations from the local Methodist men's group, Florida Power and Light, Wachovia Bank and two anonymous donors. The funds were used for holiday meals and gifts for seniors.

School Lunch MENU

January 4 - January 8

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, January 4

Breakfast: Turkey and sausage breakfast burrito, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Slice of pepperoni pizza or cheeseburger on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked french fries, seasoned mixed vegetables, chilled applesauce and a homemade cookie

Tuesday, January 5

Breakfast: Egg with cheese breakfast burrito, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Pepperoni pizza hot pocket or ham with pinto beans and rice, choice of 2 sides: raw veggies with lowfat ranch dressing, seasoned green beans, chilled fruit juice and a homemade wheat roll

Wednesday, January 6

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, peach slices, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce and a slice of homemade wheat Italian bread or fish crisp on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked potato rounds, creamy coleslaw, steamed broccoli and a homemade chocolate chip cookie

Thursday, January 7

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

Lunch: Beef stroganoff over egg noodles with a homemade wheat roll or breaded chicken patty on a bun, choice of 2 sides: golden corn, lettuce and tomato slices, chilled fruit choice and a roasted peanut cup (gr. 7-12 only)

Friday, January 8

Breakfast: Chicken biscuit, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Hamburger or hot dog on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked french fries, lettuce and tomato slices, creamy coleslaw.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

January 4

District-wide: School resumes - Students and teachers return. BCHS: Girls' basketball @ Union, 6:00 p.m. KIS: FAIR testing

January 5

BCHS: Girls' basketball @ Hilliard, 6:00 p.m. BMS: Basketball @ Live Oak - Girls 5:30 p.m. Boys 6:45 p.m. KIS: FAIR testing. WES: School advisory council mtg., 6:00 p.m. Good Morning Show club mtg., 8:00 a.m.

To Ms. Tracy Lamb,
I apologize for any inconvenience that I have caused you.

Thank you,
Tammy Moreno

FREE MAMMOGRAM

Are you uninsured?
Limited Coverage?

Call 259-6291 ext. 2298

to schedule an appointment at the Baker County Health Department

~~\$20.00~~ Breast Exam Fee waived until March 31, 2010

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Our customers trust us to give them the best. Thank you for your business! May God grant you blessings in abundance, good health and a safe and happy new year.



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Well Drilling~Septic Tanks~Water Softeners
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Macclenny
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Getting Married?
An Anniversary?
A Reunion?

visit savethedatemagic.com
Enter Code: sav2010 \$5 off

AutoCrafters COLLISION REPAIR

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SPORTS



SPORTS NOTICE SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your sports submissions for youth league, traveling league or individual athletic achievements. The paper reserves the right to publish submissions. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

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.bakercountynews.com

Ruise, Munson named to All First Coast squad

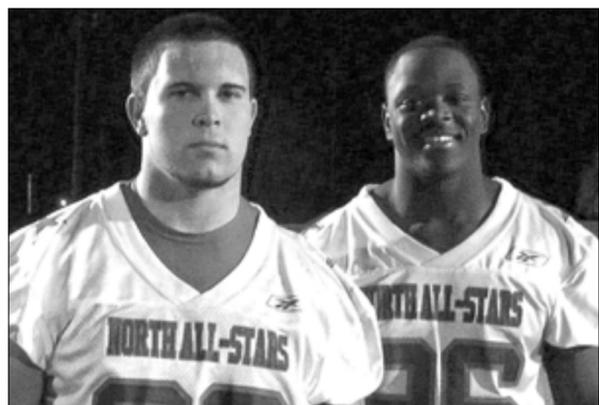


PHOTO SUBMITTED
Ethan Munson (left) and Darvin Ruise at the all star game in Sebring December

The accolades keep rolling in for the BCHS Wildcat football players. Four senior Wildcats were named to the All First Coast football team by the *Florida Times-Union*.

Quarterback/safety Darvin Ruise, last week a Super 24 selection by the T-U, is a first-team defensive player. Ruise is a quick, physical defender who was selected for the Athlete position. He posted three interceptions at safety and also scored 11 touchdowns from his quarterback position this season. He made a verbal commitment to Missouri, which will probably slot him either at safety or linebacker.

Defensive lineman Ethan Munson was also a first-team selection. Munson, who had six sacks and 21 stops in the backfield, is a physical and speedy lineman who also bolstered the offensive line when needed. Munson is a versatile player and a very hard hitter. Munson and Ruise were also named to last week's Northeast Florida Coach's Association All Star Team.

Cody Wheeler is a second-team selection at linebacker. Like Munson, Wheeler is a hard hitter who always seems to be around the ball. He could always be depended upon for a big hit in a crucial situation for the Wildcats.

Harold Moore is a third-team selection at cornerback. Moore is the fastest player on the field for the Cats and as well as a solid corner, He is also an excellent return threat and running back.



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

First Coast Classic begins

The annual Florida First Coast Classic boys basketball tournament began this week in the BCHS gym. Pictured above are the Ridgeview Panthers taking on Melody Christian Academy of Live Oak the evening of December 29. The Wildcats played later that evening defeating Union County 68-41 on the heels of a third-quarter surge. The Cats outscored UCHS 22-9 in the period and Chris McCray had a game high 19 points in the win. The Wildcats play Crescent City at 8:00 pm December 30. Please see next week's edition for full coverage of the tournament, which also includes teams from Wolfson High, Bradford County, Crescent City and Suwannee County.

In the Locker Room

with Coach Bobby Johns

Darvin Ruise and Ethan Munson made the Baker County Wildcats proud with a great showing in the annual F.A.C.A. all-star game in Sebring December 22.

The best players from around the state come together every year to participate in the state association's all-star classic and it has not been easy for Wildcat players to get themselves invited. Over the past two seasons, three Wildcat players have been selected to show their talents in this game. I am an active member of the association, and have worked very hard to get the recognition needed for these players to have this opportunity.

The game is a competition of the top players in north Florida pitted against those in south Florida. Last season, I was one of the North team's offensive coordinators as the North defeated the South. Former Wildcat Hank Farmer played in the game and was selected as a captain and the team's MVP.

This year Darvin Ruise, a standout safety and quarterback for the Wildcats, was selected to play at safety and Ethan Munson, the Wildcats' impressive defensive and offensive lineman, as a defensive lineman. Both young men played a huge role in the game for the North team.

Darvin, also selected as a team captain, played safety, returned kickoffs and held for extra points. He made several great plays on defense and was the signal caller for all of the defensive secondary adjustments. He also had three very good kickoff returns for the North.

Ethan, although severely out-matched from a size perspective, played just as dominantly as he has for the past three seasons for the Cats. Ethan stuffed

holes and wreaked havoc on the South's backfield all night. In the fourth quarter, Ethan made a huge solo stop on a fourth down play that gave the North a chance to win the game. He penetrated into the backfield and stopped the running back for a one-yard loss.

The North could not convert the stop into a touchdown and came up short with an interception to end the game with a 27-23 loss. It was a great effort on the part of both of these players and it is certain that they will be sorely missed when the Wildcats take the field in 2010.

These two young men have now finished a great career that

has seen them lead the Wildcat football team through the most prolific period in the history of Wildcat football. Over the past three seasons, they have guided the Cats to 28 wins, two district championships, a district runner-up, and two playoff wins.

This past season saw the Cats, over a three week period, mount a thrilling come-back win over Suwannee, beat Ribault for a second time this year to win the district championship, and top Madison County in the playoffs.

Darvin and Ethan led a group of Wildcats that will be remembered for many years to come and have made the Wildcats proud.

Advertising Deadline
Monday
5:00 pm
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Calling all Children & Teenagers, ages 4-17

Baker County YMCA BASKETBALL
of Florida's First Coast

Call the YMCA @ 259-0898 for more registration information. OPEN TO EVERYONE.

Practices begin January 11 • Games begin January 22 & 23
Limited spots available!!

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE
• The YMCA does not turn away anyone with the inability to pay.
• Apply for scholarships at the YMCA.

YMCA MISSION STATEMENT
To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Step right up to a new year!

We couldn't have asked for better partners than you!

Thanks for your goodwill and support this past year.

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Macclenny
259-6296

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No Joining Fee* • No Contracts

includes a **Personal Training Resolution Sale**

Specials on 3 or 5 one-hour sessions with an experienced trainer.
Limited time only.

ZUMBA FITNESS

Everyone is invited to Zumba with us as a party!
A GOING AWAY PARTY FOR FLO'
January 5 at 5:00 pm
Drawings • Refreshments • 2 Hours of Dancing

FREE

SURVIVAL CAMP
begins January 25
SIGN UP NOW!!!
Taught by Michelle Escobar
Classes at 6:00 am & 6:00 pm
\$25 members, \$50 non-members
Must register by January 22.
Mandatory meeting Jan. 22 at 6:00 pm

Just for Kids!
DANCE PARTY
STARTING JANUARY 8
Every Friday at 5:30 pm
Call for details.

FITNESS 'U' PUNCH CARD
\$50 for 10 visits to the Baker YMCA.
Allows access to wellness facility and group exercise

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\$3.19 can ~ \$15.99 a roll

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| Timberwolf 2 cans \$2.99 | Pall Malls \$26.99 ctn. | Dorals \$31.99 ctn. |
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| Bowie Chewing Tobacco \$2.99 BOGO Free \$17.99/box | 305s \$26.99 ctn | Redman Silver \$1.49 pack |
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HERE'S TO BRIGHT TIMES!

While 2009 was really fine, we hope you'll visit again in 2010!

Happy New Year and sincere thanks for your valued patronage all year long.

City of Macclenny

118 E. Macclenny Ave.
259-6261
cityofmacclenny.com

2010

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS CLASSIFIEDS

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

To place, correct or cancel an ad by phone, call **904-259-2400**
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
or email classifieds@bakercountypress.com
or online www.bakercountypress.com

To place, correct or cancel an ad by mail, send a copy of the ad exactly as it should appear, payment and phone number where we can reach you.
P.O. Box 598
Macclenny, FL 32063

RATES:
Line Ads:
20 words for \$6.00 cash/check
20 words for \$7.00 Visa/MC
20¢ each additional word
Service Ads:
15 words for \$8.00 cash/check
15 words for \$9.00 Visa/MC
20¢ each additional word

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

Oak firewood cut and split to fit modern heaters and fireplaces. Can deliver full size long bed truck load \$110, you pick up \$100. 653-1149. 12/31-1/7p

25'x36' garage trusses \$1500 OBO. 259-3300. 3/12tfc

35 lever action carbine \$300, Ruger Red Hawk 44 mag. 7 1/2" barrel \$500 OBO. 259-3763. 12/31-1/7p

Got roaches? Buy Harris Famous Roach Tablets or Powder. Eliminates roaches or your money back, guaranteed. Available at Bennett's Feed. 10/15tfc

Cane juice, bunnies. Tommy Crews. 912-843-2610. 12/24-12/31p

Artists! Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more! On sale now. The Office Mart, 110 S. Fifth Street, 259-3737. tfc

12x36 metal shed, all metal studs, plywood floor \$6000 OBO. 904-259-3763. 12/31-1/7p

Sony KP57WS510 57" widescreen HD ready rear projection TV, in excellent condition \$900. 259-9008. 12/24-12/31p

The Franklin Mercantile will be re-opening for our business beginning January 29, Fridays and Saturdays 10-5. 259-6040 Happy New Year! 12/31-1/29c

Infant car seat with base, Graco, blue and beige, \$25. 588-3628. 11/26tfc

Moving sale, 3' commercial grill, stainless steel, three months old \$1000, has table. Solid cherry coffee table, queen Ann \$50. Bedmiser 100 plus years old antique oak china cabinet \$250. Twin mattress and spring, excellent condition in plastic \$75. Solid cherry headboard \$75 with rails. Snapper self propelled lawnmower \$100. Salt water pool pump \$75, new, extra pump and supplies \$50, snapper riding lawnmower \$250. S-10 2002 pickup truck \$5500, purchased new, great work truck, extra cab, camper shell, tow bar, five speed. 1987 Mercedes 300 SDL \$1500. 2008 F150 crew cab, red and gray, under warranty, less than 10,000 miles on truck, \$25,400, spanking new. Call Andy 923-6661, leave message. 12/31p

Oxygen machine, bedside commode, shower chair, electric wheelchair. 259-3747. 12/24-12/31p

Automobiles

1990 Chevrolet Silverado 271, four wheel drive, red and white step-side with red interior, automatic V8, power steering, power brakes, power windows, power door locks, heat/air. Extras include new tires, extra tires and rims, diamond plated tool box, \$5,000. 904-259-5094. 12/31p

1996 Mitsubishi Montero, loaded, 152,000 miles, excellent condition, \$3195 OBO. 904-219-7993 or 904-613-6871. 12/17-12/31p

1999 Z71, V8, AT, PS, PW, 230,000 highway miles. Truck is in very good condition, needs a little TLC, \$5000 OBO. 259-3763. 12/24-12/31p

1989 Mercedes, four door, blue, around 50,000 miles on V8, a nice car, \$1800. 571-0913. 12/31p

Carpool

Looking for someone interested in carpooling to Bolles in Jacksonville. Call 525-5700. 12/3-12/10c

Advertising Deadline
Monday
5:00 pm
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Animals

Billy goat, large Nebium, five years old, \$100. 838-8735. 12/31p

Dogs: all types from puppies to adults. Animal Control, \$65 adoption fees will apply. 259-6786. 11/20tfc

Lost & Found

Missing Chihuahua, fawn colored, red nose, name is Little Bit. If found call 904-259-7447 or 563-7018. May have been picked up by a black Ford pick-up first three numbers of tag 414. 12/31p

Lost: Red nose bull mix, last seen December 15, near Wal-mart. Could be with female beagle. Please contact Kathy Yarbrough 705-6540. 12/31-1/7p

Found: Two pit bull puppies, approximately 10 weeks old, in Taylor area. 521-9909. 12/31p

Help Wanted

Notice to readers:
The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products. While the newspaper uses reasonable discretion in deciding on publication of such ads, it takes no responsibility as to the truthfulness of claims. Respondents should use caution and common sense before sending any money or making other commitments based on statements and/or promises; demand specifics in writing. You can also call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to find out how to spot fraudulent solicitations. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. - The Baker County Press

Caregiver/live-in companion for elderly gentleman. Call 904-910-6956 or 386-431-1559 for information. 12/24-12/31p

Dental assistant needed in Lake City, Florida. Full time position, Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Salary based on experience. Please fax resume to 386-752-3122. 12/17-1/7p

Heavy duty diesel mechanic needed, Travel Centers of America, Baldwin location, 1024 US 301 South. Driver's license required. Please apply to Mark Holmes, Shop Manager. 904-266-4281, ext. 22. 10/1tfc

Skilled A/C mechanic, must have experience in service work, ductwork, and A/C installation. Apply at dependable32063@netcom.net 10/15tfc

Career Opportunities

Welding: Enjoy working outdoors? Like to earn a good income? Consider welding at Lake City Community College. Classes begin January 6, 2010. Financial aid available. No high school diploma required. We have day, night and Saturday class. Register now through December 16 or January 4-5. Call (386) 754-4214 for details. 12/10-12/31c

HVAC: Enjoy doing repairs? Like to earn a good income and/or Start your business? Consider Heating/AC and Commercial Refrigeration at Lake City Community College. Classes begin January 6, 2010. Financial aid available. No high school diploma required. We have day and night classes. Register now through December 16 or January 4-5. Call (386) 754-4214 for details. 12/10-12/31c

Real Estate

Notice to Readers
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the impaired is 1-800-927-9275.
One acre lot zoned for home or mobile home, dry, partially cleared, Hillcrest Drive, Macclenny \$29,500. 904-259-5972 or 904-304-6294. 12/17-1/7p

One acre near Suwannee River and boat ramp in Branford, Florida. Surveyed, septic system, 4" well and power. Beautiful lot, \$35,000 OBO. 904-259-3763. 12/31-1/7p

3 BR, 2 BA 1992 doublewide mobile home with two large decks on 1.75 acres, very nice home ready to move in. Cuyler area, \$59,500. 904-259-5383 or 904-226-3064. 12/31p

40 acres to 120 acres starting at \$4000 per acre. 904-259-8028. 12/31-1/14c

20 acres on Bill Davis Road at \$6500/acre with 450 ft. road frontage. Call Zack Parsons at 352-262-2336. 12/3-12/31p

Land for sale, 7 1/2 to 10 acre tracts, owner finance, leave a message if no answer. 259-3747. 12/24-12/31p

FSBO, 7 1/2 acres on quiet dead-end road, mature oaks, zoned conventional or mobile home, one acre per dwelling, \$112,500. 259-5877. 6/18tfc

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide mobile home on 1.1 acres on Little St. Mary's River, must sell, \$89,500. Call Mike 465-8841. 12/31-1/7p

Five or ten acres in Union County just off highway 121 off Bobby Anderson Road. \$70,000 for 10 acres, \$40,000 for five. 904-259-3667. 12/24-12/31p

264.5 acres, 875 ft. road frontage on Bill Davis Road, \$2,225/acre for everything. 352-262-2336. 12/3-12/31p

66.57 acres with 875 ft. road frontage on Bill Davis Road, \$4,000/acre. Call Zack Parsons at 352-262-2336. 12/3-12/31p

MacGlen Builders, Inc. Brick homes in Macclenny from \$145,000-\$210,000. 813-1580. 11/13tfc

1.63 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA doublewide 2" and 4" well, needs a little TLC, \$75,000, appraised at \$85,000. 904-259-3763. 12/31-1/7p

4BR, 2BA stucco/stone, built August 2008. 2015 heated SF, 2 CG w/cabinets, upgraded maple cabinets, Corian solid counters, stainless appliances, custom painted interior, custom ceiling fans, landscaped with privacy fence. Cypress Pointe subdivision in Macclenny. Catch fish in your backyard on this desirable lot that backs up to large pond with forest one side at the end of cul-de-sac. \$163,000. Call for appointment 904-966-9663. 12/17-3/4p

200 acre operating quail plantation, 4 BR, 2 BA 22,000 SF lodge, includes all equipment, furniture and structures, \$6250/acre. www.bakerquailplantation.com 352-262-2336. 12/3-12/31p

3 acres, high and dry, fish pond, homes or mobile homes, set-up included, owner financing. 912-843-8118. 2/22tfc

FSBO 4 BR, 2 BA brick home approximately 2100 SF on 2.82 Acres. Fireplace, tile, plantation shutters, 20x20 workshop, many upgrades, very nice. Seller will pay up to \$10,000 in closing costs. \$262,500. By appointment only. 237-0060 or 259-3963. 5/14tfc

Two lots in Copper Creek, Unit III. Call 813-1580. 12/11tfc

For Rent

3 BR, 2 BA singlewide on 1/2 acre lot, close to I-10, \$550/month, \$500 deposit. 259-2552, 614-6111. 12/31-1/7p



YARD SALES

Saturday, 8:00 am - noon, 430 Linda Street. Furniture, knick-knacks, riding lawn mower, boat and other stuff.

1 BR, 1 BA on River Hills Road, \$400/month, \$200 deposit, first and last month plus deposit due up front. Call after 6:00 pm. 397-0249. 12/31p

House in Taylor, 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, new carpet and linoleum, washer and dryer, partially furnished, service animals only \$600/month, first month plus \$350 security deposit. 259-7485 or 259-9303. 12/31-1/7p

3 BR, 2 BA central H/A, washer/dryer hook-up, garbage, water, sewage and lawn care included, \$575/month, \$575 deposit. 904-219-2690, 912-843-8165. 12/31c

Homes and mobile homes for rent from \$750-850 monthly. 259-2255. 11/13tfc

3 BR, 2 BA, nice doublewide with fireplace, central H/A, big yard in country, \$700/month, \$500 deposit. 912-843-2093, 904-777-8880, cell 904-477-5561. 12/31-1/7p

2 BR, 2 BA central H/A, washer/dryer hook-up, garbage, water, sewage and lawn care included, \$525/month, \$525 deposit. 904-219-2690, 912-843-8165. 12/31c

2 or 3 BR mobile home for rent on 1/2 acre. Service animals only, garbage pickup, sewer, water and lawn maintenance provided, rent \$385-\$550, family neighborhood. 912-843-8118; 904-699-8637. 10/29tfc

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home on 1/2 acre lot in Deerfield Circle, \$175 weekly, no deposit. 910-5434, Nextel beep 160*132311*2. 12/31p

1 and 2 BR apartments now available, 1 BR \$500, 2 BR \$550, 50% off first months rent for qualified applicants. Quiet, established neighborhood. Call for more information 259-8444. 11/5tfc

3 BR, 2 BA vinyl house, Ivey Street in city, one year lease, service animals only, \$750/month, \$750 deposit. Available January 15th. 259-6546, 259-4602. 12/31tfc

3 BR, 2 BA brick home with fenced yard and utility shed, in city, \$850/month, first and last plus deposit. 259-6849. 12/31-1/7p

3 BR, 2 BA on River Hills Road in Glen, \$700/month, \$200 deposit, first and last month plus deposit due up front. Call after 6:00 pm. 397-0249. 12/31p

2 and 3 BR mobile homes, central H/A, service pets only, water, lawn, garbage included. First, last and deposit required. 259-7335. 4/30tfc

1998 Homes of Merit
4 BR, 2 BA, 28x64
Like New - \$20,000
904-334-8904



MAY YOUR DREAMS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

With deepest gratitude from all of us to all of you, along with best wishes for the brightest holiday season, ever!

904-259-7039

1171 S. 6th St. Macclenny



PERFECT FOR 1st TIME BUYER - MLS#494862
This 3BR 1BA is the place to call home. Sits on almost 1/2 acre. Close to rail trails, shopping and about 15 mins from downtown. \$69,900

COMPLETELY REMODELED! - MLS#494548
This 3BR 2BA DWMH sits on large 2.67 acre corner lot. Gorgeous wood flooring throughout. Fresh paint, artistic light fixtures, open floor plan. \$115,500

BAHAYA FIELDS! - MLS#428488 Great for your HORSES! HIGH & DRY 5.63 acres. Completely cleared & waiting for you to build your dream home. Being offered at 2008 appraised value. \$134,000

GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY - MLS#497431 Currently rents for \$695. Almost 1 acre parcel! \$49,900

GREAT POTENTIAL! - MLS#494925 Car wash conveniently located in town on a highly trafficked main road. Property has 110ft road frontage. 3 useful bays. 1 storage bldg, large parking lot. \$150,000

BRING US AN OFFER! MLS#460640 10 High & dry acres waiting on your dream home. Zoned for houses or mobile homes. The choice is yours. Located on a secluded road and corner lot. \$80,000

JAX RANCH CLUB - MLS#452129 Get away from city by owning this spectacular vacant lot of 2.53 acres. Come canoe & ride horses. \$89,000

BEAUTIFUL LAND - MLS#459699 Perfect for new development of duplex townhomes or mobile homes. Corner lot. .90 acre. Vacant land in downtown Macclenny. \$115,000

LOVELY ALL BRICK HOME - MLS#488789 This 3BR 2BA hm features newer carpet, countertops, hardware, screen back porch, double pane windows & much more. \$116,900

YOUR DREAM HOME - MLS#489647 3900 SF of pure charm. 1.71 acres, large mgs, family custom sun rm & bonus. Grand master open plan. \$379,500

PERFECT TIME OF YEAR - MLS#473281 To invest in river property & Saint Mary's River has the best offered. Gorgeous, well built Destiny mobile home up to all the codes & standards. \$134,000

PRICED TO SELL! - MLS#503350 This immaculate 3BR 2BA all brick hm sits on 2 city lots. WWC, tile flrs in kitchen & fam. room. All stainless steel appliances, prewired surround sound and much more! \$149,000

PERFECT LAND! - MLS#408378 45.63 Acres! Great for horses & agriculture. CR121. Has an older home & 2 rental. Close to St. Mary's River. \$550,000

CUSTOM BRICK HOME - MLS#466239 Beautiful 3BR 2BA on almost 2 acres. Large rooms. Enough rm in master for office. 3 car attached garage & more! Detached 2 car finished garage w/central heat & air, could be converted into apt. \$259,900

GREAT HOME! MLS#509000 This 3BR 2BA sits on 1.4 acres features formal living Rm, dining rm & family rm that opens to the Florida rm. Has 2 detached garages w workshop and more. \$199,900

BEAUTIFUL BRICK HOME! - MLS#496654 This 4BR 2BA hm is located on 1 acre w/stocked pond. Immaculate landscaped yard. Swim in your beautiful screened solar heated in ground pool. Lots of extras. \$279,900

THIS IS A MUST HAVE! - MLS#473434 Looking for a place to call home or a summer retreat, look no further. Navigable river front property located near public boat ramp. Gorgeous land with Bellcrest 2000 doublewide mobile home. \$158,000

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Meyer flip-flop confusing

FAT LADY
ROBERT GERARD

I'm not quite sure what to think about the Urban Meyer business this weekend. Though I'm not a Gator fan, I admire Meyer and all he has done in his short time as head coach at Bowling Green, Utah and, of course, Florida. He's the winningest active coach in football, one who can be admired as a man as well as a coach.

But the situation itself is a bit surreal. Meyer decides to retire on Saturday after having health problems for the past couple of years. He had chest pains and was hospitalized briefly after the loss to Alabama in the SEC Championship game and that seemed to spur his initial decision to retire.

Of course, the entire Gator Nation was shocked. My wife's phone rang off the hook and her Facebook account was beset with opinions on his decision. Like most people, I was sorry he would be gone, but certainly understood why.

But these days nothing is etched in stone. A day later, after a "spirited practice," Meyer was qualifying his retirement.

Instead of retiring, the 45-year-old was taking a leave of absence following the Sugar Bowl. He would sit out the off-season and be back in place on the sidelines for the first game of the season.

Confusing? I'll say. It has a Brett Favre feel to it.

How can a "spirited practice" make him healthier? Did Tim Tebow do open heart surgery with a line marker?

If I were Meyer's wife I might be a little, well, peeved, as my

mother would put it. Meyer told the players he was going to retire before he told his wife and told the players he would be back before she knew about that, too.

Maybe coaches' wives are different from ordinary wives but I know that if most of us pulled that we'd be enjoying serious doghouse time.

Meyer leaves the program in the capable hands of offensive coordinator Steve Addazio. He doesn't have Meyer's mojo, and the Gators might lose a player or two to recruiting, but they will still be in pretty good shape for next season.

It was always going to be a little dicey with assistants like Charlie Strong and a plethora of players graduating or bolting to the NFL. But the Gators should be just fine.

Meyer would be better off taking a full year away from the game before deciding whether to come back. If his health problems really are all about the stress of the game, it will take a while to drop that stress and staying in the athletic department in some capacity could make it worse since his hand isn't on the throttle.

Nowadays nothing surprises me. For all I know, next week he may be quarterbacking for the Vikings.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to an application submitted by Brown & Cullen, Inc., as agent for Renny Eadie, to be granted a variance to the Baker County Land Development Regulations Article 3 Section 3.04.24.04.D Setback Standards Maximum Height of Structures, for the future site of the Columbia - Sanderson Concrete Batch Plant. The property is located on US Highway 90 west, in Sec 12, Tw n 3S, R 20, in Baker County, Florida. The Baker County Land Planning Agency (LPA) will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 7:00 pm, in the County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL. All interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the variance. Written comments for or against the variance may be sent to the Baker County Planning Department, 81 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to (904) 259-5057. Copies of the variance may be inspected in the Planning Department by any member of the public. 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.

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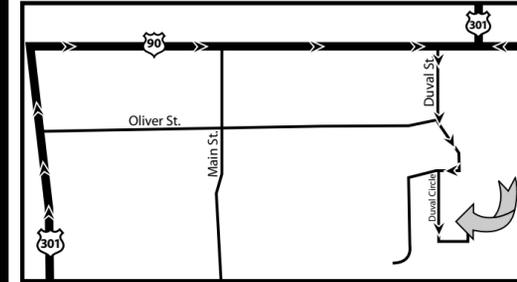
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