



Snake bite victim critically injured at Ocean Pond

See page 7



Haz mat team called after semi tips over, paint seeps out

See page 5

75¢

JULY 7, 2011 THURSDAY

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

82nd Year, Vol. 11 • Winner of 7 state awards for journalism excellence in 2010

10 years for DUI death in July, '10

The driver of an SUV that crashed head-on into a south-bound vehicle on SR 121 south of Macclenny the night of July 31, 2010 was sentenced on June 30 to 10 years in prison for DUI manslaughter.

The sentencing of Anthony Daniels, 54, of Macclenny followed an emotional and often tearful three-hour hearing before Circuit Judge Phyllis Rosier that afternoon. She also ordered Mr. Daniels onto a five-year probation upon release.

He must serve a minimum of four years.

Judge Rosier rejected the defense's appeal for a 15-year probation or the minimum sentence in light of the defendant's clean record before the night of the accident that took the life of Alex Gene Trail, 58, of Fort White, the sole occupant of the second vehicle who died at the scene.

Much of the hearing was taken up with statements by family members of both the defendant and victim. The defense presented 14 witnesses — family, co-workers, friends and fellow church members of Mr. Daniels attesting to his character.

Relatives of the victim spoke at length of the aftershock of losing a family man devoted to his church and job as a mail truck driver.

Judge Rosier ordered Mr. Daniels to devote 100 hours speaking to groups on the consequences of drunk driving and permanently suspended his license. He was fined \$1000 and a hearing later will determine any restitution paid to the victim's family.

Mr. Daniels has been employed 33 years at the West Fraser sawmill in west Jacksonville and his work record was as flawless as his driving record, according to court documents.

The only notation on his record was a ticket for a life preserver offense in June, 1990.

Mr. Daniels was arrested
See page 2»

Four suspects still sought in drug offender roundup

See page 4

The rockets' red glare



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Fireworks light up Macclenny

A pair of public fireworks displays brightened the skies over the north and south city during the July 4th holiday weekend. The first came at the fairgrounds (above) Saturday night following a wrestling event. That display was followed on Independence Day by the fireworks show sponsored by Sam's Crystal River Seafood on South 6th Street where Jessilyn Carter (left) enjoyed watermelon while watching the show.



Anthony Daniels

A '4th of July fry' for the Browns

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

"We've been doing this since Daddy started it back in the 1950s," said Gail Brown, as she scooped crispy hush puppies from hot oil and dumped them in an aluminum pan.

It's July 4th and Ms. Brown is standing outside one of the buildings at the Congregational Holiness Church Campground in Glen St. Mary where generations of the Brown family have been meeting for their annual family reunion and holiday fish fry for the last 10 years.

Inside tables are decorated with red, white and blue cloths and many family members wear the patriotic color combination as well.

The meal begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and a plaque with a decorative image of the "Stars and Stripes" takes the place of an actual flag.

The blessing over the food included prayers for the well-being of the country.

The Brown family reunions have been held since 1938 when Colquitt "Col" Brown, the family's patriarch and Ms. Brown's grandfather, started the original gathering at the family's ancestral home, today known as the Burned Block House.

The house has been moved from its original location near the North Prong of the St. Mary's River and restored as a museum at Heritage

See page 2»



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Gail Brown and Dewey Hebert man the fry station.

District retains a 'B' grade

Keller drops to D

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Baker County school district kept its overall B grade and the middle school remains an A school, according to school and district grades released by the Florida Department of Education June 30.

Keller Intermediate, however, fell two letter grades to become a D school for the first time since 2001-02.

The decline came in part because not enough low-performing students made reading gains on the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or FCAT, administered last spring.

"Keller does a lot of good things academically ... But there's a select population that doesn't perform well," explained the school district's director of accountability and testing, Susan Voorhees.

The state requires that at least 50 percent of students scoring in the bottom 25 percent in reading and math make gains within two year's time. Schools failing to meet the requirement are penalized one letter grade.

This year 42 percent of the low-performing students at Keller made gains in reading and 54 percent made gains in math. Last year 46 percent showed reading gains and 56 percent showed math gains.

"It's not an easy thing to take," said Ms. Voorhees. "You would like to get the grade that you earned."

Keller was labeled a B school last year.

Ms. Voorhees attributed the dip in the school's FCAT performance to the more rigorous version of the test, the so-called FCAT 2.0, administered to students statewide for the first time this year.

She also said that because a high number of students in the bottom quartile arrive at Keller with just below-average scores, it's more difficult to show improvement than if a student arrived with very low scores.

"It's not an excuse ...," Ms. Voorhees said. "They're coming in stronger academically, so they're harder to move. It's a good problem to have."

The middle school, meanwhile, earned its fifth consecutive A grade, which is a difficult standard to maintain, according to the testing director.

"You have to move the bottom quartile every year ... These teachers are taking the same struggling students and moving them, and moving them and moving them," she said.

To achieve A status, schools must also make gains in reading

See page 2»

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Do you intend to disregard the burn ban and light off fireworks July 4th?

18.5% Yes

75.9% No

5.6% Undecided

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10 years for 2010 DUI manslaughter

«From page 1

at the scene south of Northeast Florida State Hospital and his blood alcohol level measured .163, twice what the state considers intoxicated. He was alone in his northbound vehicle.

Three other defendants received prison sentences in separate and unrelated cases after entering no contest pleas during a regular court session two days earlier:

- Antonio Shapiro drew a four-year sentence for burglary of a north Macclenny residence in November of last year. He also pleaded no contest to related counts of grand theft, criminal mischief and making a false report to police.

- Mr. Shapiro, 20, of Macclenny, has a criminal past that includes burglary, grand theft and felony criminal mischief.

- James Duffey, 25, of Ponte Vedra Beach entered pleas to multiple counts centering around a vehicle theft in Macclenny last November and received a 30-month sentence.

He drove off in an SUV belonging to a Macclenny man from the S&S convenience store on South 6th that night and wrecked it on US 90 just west of Glen St. Mary.

He fled the scene and police were able to identify him from his cell phone.

Mr. Duffey has a criminal record that includes grand theft auto, drunk driving and disorderly intoxication.

- Johnathan Mann, 20, of Glen admitted to violating probation on a number of 2010 offenses when he and others were arrested in early 2011 for stealing construction tools from a new home site.

He also pleaded no contest to battery, attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery, also early this year.

Judge Rosier imposed a 21-month prison term and Mr. Mann gets credit for 335 days in county jail.

- Tarus Wilson was sentenced to a year in county jail followed by two years on drug offender house arrested in return for his plea to twin counts of selling drugs near a school. Companion possession charges were dropped as part of the plea agreement.

- Mitchell Mers admitted to violating probation on a 2010 drug sale charge and will be in county jail a year. The sentence runs concurrently with one in Clay County.

District stays at 'B'

«From page 1

and math at every grade level.

"There's no averaging to make it look good," said Ms. Voorhees.

Maintaining the A grade makes the school eligible for some \$70 more in per-student funding from the state. More than 1100 schools in Florida kept their A grades this year.

But unlike most districts' elementary schools with kindergarten through fifth grades, Baker County has two K-3 schools and Keller, a school of fourth and fifth graders. Keller, however, is the only elementary school the state gives a grade.

As a result, Ms. Voorhees said, to the best of her knowledge, the record-high FCAT scores at Westside and Macclenny elementary schools this year weren't used in calculating the district's overall grade.

"If they did, the data would put us at an A," she said. "Every other district we know of gets the benefit of their third grade data, but we don't."

Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson has been investigating ways in which the district could receive credit for the third grade results.

The state's grade for the high school, which is based on graduation rates, advance coursework and other factors, is expected in December.

- Floyd Proctor admitted he violated probation on two 2009 drug counts and got a year in jail.

- Clemon Scott admitted to violating probation on a 2010 charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and drew a one-year term.

Judge Rosier imposed several six-month house arrest sentences followed by probation, all with stricter drug offender sanctions.

They went to Robert Baglin for possession of controlled drugs, Felicity Crawford for child abuse and Mark Stewart for sale and possession of controlled drugs.

- Sanita Mobley will be on a two-year house arrest with sex offender sanctions after admitting she violated probation for a 2009 lewd and lascivious case involving a minor male.

The judge ordered the arrest of two defendants who failed to show up in court that day: Robert Porterfield for felony battery and Clayton Williams on multiple assault and tampering with a witness charges.

Brown family: 4th of July fry...

«From page 1

Park Village in Macclenny.

Col and Minnie Brown raised 10 children in the house, and two of those children, Irene Dugger, 89, and Ruth Ricker, 92, are still living.

Both were present at the reunion last Monday.

The holiday fish fry was established in the 1950s.

"The Congregational Holiness Church was grandma's church," said Ms. Brown. "That's why we started having it here."

Family members still living in Florida came from Jacksonville, Tallahassee and St. Augustine. Others traveled in from Alabama and Louisiana.

Each family brings fish to the gathering. Dewey Hebert, a Louisiana native who married into the Brown family, likes to make sure some spicy Cajun fish are in the mix.

"I bring my own seasoning," he said, proudly brandishing a green container.

"Don't get him talking about cooking," his wife teased. "We'll be here all day."

During the socializing, a group of ladies had fun tallying up the members of their current family lines. They came up with 218 living Brown descendants.

"Aunt Ruth is the oldest at 92 and the youngest is Chesney Rhoden who is only one month old," said Ms. Brown (Gail).

"My family has five generations represented and I've got two great, great grandchildren," said a very proud Ms. Dugger.

The family feasting didn't stop when the fish were gone. Everyone headed to Rudolph's Christmas Tree Farm near Cuyler for a peanut boil and slices of watermelon.

The farm is owned and operated by Jeanell Fraser, whose mother Rudolph was a Brown. The reunion festivities later wrapped up with another tradition — hotdogs cooked on the grill.

As the kids frolicked in the pool, the adults leisurely snacked on boiled peanuts while they visited and caught up on events of the past year. A copy of the family cookbook, compiled in 2002, circulated. It contained not only treasured family recipes, but the photo of the family's first reunion in 1938.

"That's me on the front row," said Claudine Rhoden pointing to the image of a mischievous looking little girl.

"See that look on my face? My mother had to spank me more than any of her other children. And, I could never seem to stop talking," she said.

Other group photos from past family gatherings were on display and there was a lot of reminiscing about relatives.

The cookbook underwent a revision recently and new copies were supplied to the Baker County Historical Society.

"The historical society recently sold its last copy," said Nettie Ruth Brown. "We were happy to restock the supply — people seem to really enjoy the book."

They also discussed the entry some family members have been composing to include in a commemorative history book being pro-

duced for Baker County's 150th Anniversary celebration in October.

No reunion is complete without one funny memory.

"My brother Marvin and I sometimes had to go along when Daddy was out tapping turpentine gum," said Marjorie Dunn. "Once, Marvin decided to be smart and hide in the barrel which was in the back of the wagon. His feet got stuck in the gum and he couldn't get out. I climbed down inside to help him get free and I got stuck too," she said, laughing.

She recalled how they both made so much ruckus trying to get free that it spooked the horse who started pulling the cart away.

"That's how Daddy found us, because the horse started moving away. He got us out but everything our feet touched like straw and sand stuck to the turpentine gum. He carried us home, one child under each arm, and teased us that our momma was probably going to have to cut off our feet. Scared us silly."

The fish fry is an especially happy gathering but the family gets together numerous times throughout the year as well.

"Aunt Ruth, she likes to be wherever we're getting together, but she can't really walk at all," said Mr. Hebert. "So when we have to travel, like to Crescent Beach, we just pick her up in the truck, recliner and all and head out. She doesn't want to miss being with the family."

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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.

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Governor sending conflicting signals

The forecast called for rain, but there was another reason a young woman protesting Governor Rick Scott during his visit to the Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg July 1 had on pink galoshes — they matched her "Pink Slip Rick" T-shirt.

The governor delivered a statement in the hotel's banquet hall to attendees of the Florida Press Association's annual convention, mostly reporters, editors and publishers.

He touted the 70,000 or so jobs the state's added since he was sworn into office late last year and said nothing of the 1300 jobs eliminated from the state's payroll that day, including 70 or more at Northeast Florida State Hospital.

Then he took questions from the audience, and as Governor Scott does so often, failed to answer them.

For instance, he was asked to square his office's policy of responding to public records requests as slowly and expensively as the law allows, a contrast with his campaign pledge to increase transparency in state government. The governor answered by saying he plans to make more records available online.

I think it's safe to assume our CEO governor loves saying he's created jobs, cut spending and saved taxpayers money. But if the media attempts to verify such statements, they're in for a hassle.

The governor doesn't appear to respect the public's right to know what its government is up to in a timely manner. In fact, his policy seems to be one of discouraging requests for public information.

So, the obvious questions become: *What's he trying to hide? Doesn't he realize the perception of impropriety is just as bad as the real thing?*

This lack of transparency isn't limited to the governor's office. Last month I got a dose of it from the Florida Department of Chil-

dren and Families.

After news of the layoffs at Northeast Florida State Hospital broke, DCF's state-wide spokesman Joe Follick pointed me to a web site launched to assist those affected by the job cuts. The site noticed a "transition forum" at the state hospital June 8.

I decided to check it out in an attempt to verify the state's assertion that laid off workers would be provided resources to help them find new jobs. I arrived, unannounced, at noon and was politely asked to pull to the

side at the front gate and wait for authorization to enter.

This was highly unusual. I've been at the hospital on numerous occasions for special events, interviews and once to play basketball in the gym, and never needed permission before.

Presumably the security guard at the gate called hospital administrators and asked if a reporter could go to the forum. And apparently, even the administrators weren't sure.

I waited for half an hour at the gate before I received a call from Tallahassee. It was Mr. Follick on my cell phone.

He agreed that I had every right to attend the transition forum. After all, it was taking place

on public property and involved public employees paid with taxpayer dollars. All he asked was that I be considerate of hospital employees given the recent turmoil over layoffs.

I was then escorted to the forum by Human Resources director Kim Hodges. She never left my side.

This must be what it's like to be a journalist in China, I thought.

My gut told me that the 30-minute delay at the security gate gave NEFSH staff plenty of time to clear the forum of anyone who may be distraught or upset about losing their job.

At least that's what it looked like behind the foggy veil of Rick

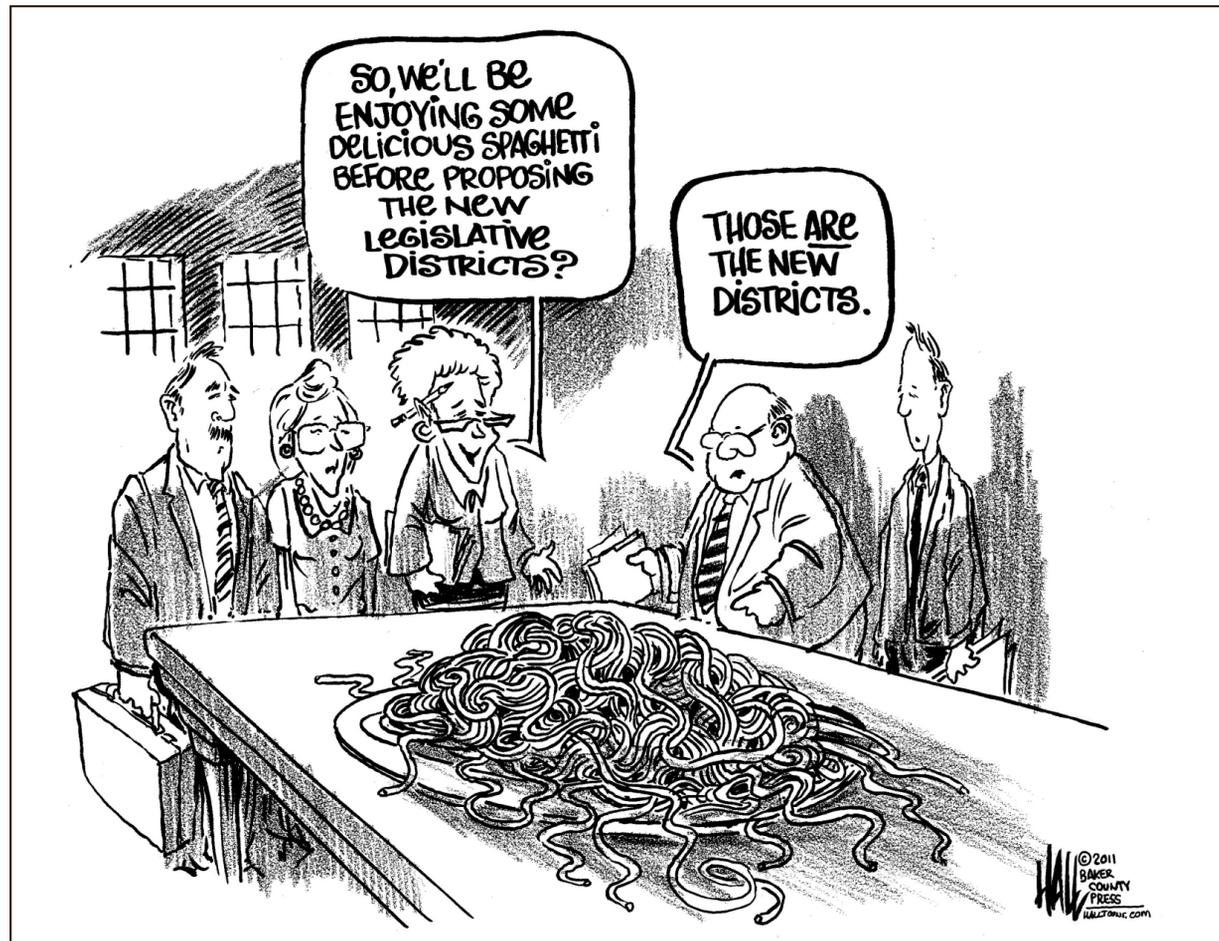
Scott's administration.

When I got to the forum, there were very few employees there. Seated at tables in the gym were representatives from WorkSource, a contracted career counselor with handy tips about "coping with transition," like eating well and exercising and sharing your thoughts and feelings with supportive and helpful people; and a handful of others there to answer questions about accrued leave time, health insurance and the like.

Everything appeared to be in order, which is dandy, but what happens when the media's not watching?

On Point In Print

Joel Addington



'Lady Liberty' a reminder that it's 'our' country

The theme of independence and freedom that originated celebrating the Fourth of July sometimes gets overshadowed by all the other recreational festivities engaged in on this holiday. I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the Statue of Liberty.

This icon of our country was dedicated in 1886 as a symbol of America's 100th anniversary of freedom from British rule.

Most of us probably don't give the statute much thought on a

day-to-day basis, but it is ubiquitously part of the national psyche.

Ask any American to name the symbol of their country and the American flag and the Statue of Liberty will be at the top of the list.

The statue will be 125 years old in October. In 2012, access to it will be closed for a while in order to install a second staircase.

Lady Liberty has undergone repair and restoration efforts, some of them extensive, through-

out her existence. I remember the restoration effort from 1982-86 and seeing photos of the scaffolding obscuring the statue from her massive toes to the tip of the torch.

Replacing the original torch which was constructed of panes of amber glass and lit from within was one of the major changes made. The statue was originally designed to function as a lighthouse, but there were always structural problems with the original design. The torch today is enclosed and covered with gold, lit at night by flood lights.

Issues of *National Geographic* and *Life Magazine* at the time detailed the process with stunning images of the restoration.

Emma Lazarus' famous poem "The New Colossus" is about the statue. Its message declares in lofty sentiments what Lady Liberty represented to the waves of immigrants coming to America in the late 19th century in search of a better life than they had known in their own countries.

Freedom, independence, democracy, liberty — these were the things the country was founded on and what the statue stood for.

Yet, the statue was sometimes surrounded by irony and contradiction.

I read with interest that during its formal dedication in 1886, women were restricted (by men) from attending the ceremony. The excuse given was concern for their physical safety.

It didn't stop a stubborn and determined group of early suffragettes (who were fighting for the basic freedoms enjoyed by males, namely, the right to vote) from chartering a boat and getting as close as possible.

During the often brutal episodes of violence during the Civil Rights movement, certainly blacks may have questioned the statue as a symbol of freedom and liberty for all people.

Not to mention the Native Americans.

Geronimo was captured 1886, the very year the Statue of Liberty was dedicated. Even the small island on which it was erected was taken from Native Americans. I wonder what they must have thought of the statue of "freedom" during a time when the common

sentiment among a majority of white settlers across the country was, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian."

Still, the statue was given in good faith and meant ultimately to be a symbol of hope and freedom for everyone who holds those values dear.

Visitors looking out from Liberty's crown over the gateway to America should be reminded that the land they see should not be thought of as "my" country, but as "our" country.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Balancing budget act

Dear Editor:

Members of Congress supporting an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires the federal budget to be balanced each year are being reckless with our economic future. Clearly, the federal deficit must be addressed, but such an amendment is the wrong method.

A balanced budget amendment requires federal spending in any year to be offset by revenues collected in the same year. Sounds enticing, but a closer look reveals a serious flaw.

During a weak economy — like we've been experiencing since 2008 — revenues may decrease while simultaneously demand will likely increase for federal expenditures such as unemployment insurance, food stamps, job training and placement, temporary assistance to needy families and the overall cost of healthcare including Medicaid.

At a time when more people would need help, less funding would be available to provide it. Increasing expenditures would only be possible by a super-majority approval of Congress, a herculean feat not likely to occur in a timely manner for many families.

Last year, the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency helped 32,000 people in its seven-county service area that includes Baker County, a 39 percent increase from the previous year. Not only did we serve more people, we saw our client profile change as people who never before needed help with food, shelter, utility costs, and job training and education sought help.

Under a balanced budget scenario, thousands of First Coast families likely would not have received assistance.

We must reduce the federal deficit, but a balanced budget amendment is not the answer. Too many families would be hurt and economic recovery would take much longer with this approach.

John W. Edwards Jr.
Executive Director
NE Fla. Community Action Agency
Jacksonville

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Facebook fans

'What you had to say ...'

We asked our Facebook friends last week, "Given the burn ban and the fact all fireworks are illegal for personal use under what circumstances would you call and report your neighbor for using them this July 4th weekend?" Here's what they had to say ...

Marilyn Penrod: "Seeing as my house is by a lot of woods, the first bang would get the phone dialed. Bans are bans, so under our current drought conditions, we should all obey the burn ban. Fireworks burn, therefore they are banned! What's not to understand?"

Cindy Oglesby: "I hope that nobody is foolish enough to set off any fireworks around me, but I wouldn't report anyone who did. However, I would keep the water hose ready just in case there is a problem. I am pretty confident that the people of

this county understand the seriousness of the burn ban and the overwhelming possibility of a fire from using fireworks so I am not that worried about it. We all love our community and don't want to see it devastated by fire."

Lynne Kirkland Sanville: "You would think with the dry conditions we have, people would know not to set off fireworks. But the sad fact is some people just don't care. I still see people throwing lit cigarettes out their car windows all the time."

Nick Apromollo: "I guess I'm the only one that has experienced a complete downpour every day of this week?"

Cindy Oglesby: "We have gotten a lot of rain at my house but the grass still crunches under my feet when I walk on it. I am sure we are

still way below where we need to be on rainfall. The tops of my pine trees are crispy brown and the pond is still very low."

Nick Apromollo: "We can't even keep our pool from being green because of the rain, my yard is a bog. Not that I'm complaining about the burn ban, but it's a whole other story in my yard."

Lynne Kirkland Sanville: "Nick, a few days of rainfall does not make everything peachy keen again. And at my house, we have not been getting rain everyday. There were several days it came down in Glen and in Macclenny and we got nothing in the Macedonia area."

Doug Wilds: "Ahhh, the heavy hand of government, gimme some more of that."

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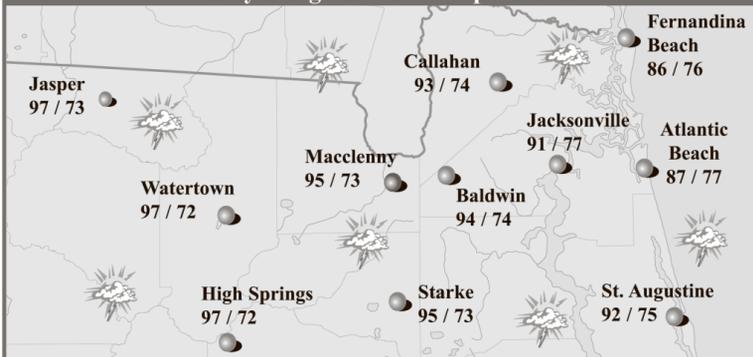
The Baker County Press Weather

July 7, 2011

Seven Day Forecast

- Thursday**
Scat'd T-storms
High: 95 Low: 73
- Friday**
Scat'd T-storms
High: 93 Low: 73
- Saturday**
Scat'd T-storms
High: 94 Low: 74
- Sunday**
Scat'd T-storms
High: 95 Low: 74
- Monday**
Mostly Sunny
High: 93 Low: 71
- Tuesday**
Sunny
High: 91 Low: 70
- Wednesday**
Sunny
High: 94 Low: 72

Today's High & Low Temperatures



Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	
Tue, 6/28	88	68	92/71	0.00"	Precipitation0.01"
Wed, 6/29	90	70	92/71	0.01"	Normal precipitation1.57"
Thu, 6/30	86	70	92/72	0.00"	Departure from normal-1.56"
Fri, 7/1	88	64	92/72	0.00"	Average temperature77.8°
Sat, 7/2	90	66	92/72	0.00"	Average normal temperature81.9°
Sun, 7/3	90	63	92/72	0.00"	Departure from normal-4.1°
Mon, 7/4	93	63	92/72	0.00"	

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	6:33 a.m.	8:34 p.m.
Friday	6:33 a.m.	8:34 p.m.
Saturday	6:33 a.m.	8:34 p.m.
Sunday	6:34 a.m.	8:34 p.m.
Monday	6:34 a.m.	8:33 p.m.
Tuesday	6:35 a.m.	8:33 p.m.
Wednesday	6:35 a.m.	8:33 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	4.26 ft.	0.00 ft.
Macclenny	1.28 ft.	-0.05 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	4:54-6:54	4:24-6:24
Fri	5:46-7:46	5:16-7:16
Sat	6:41-8:41	6:11-8:11
Sun	7:38-9:38	7:08-9:08
Mon	8:36-10:36	8:06-10:06
Tue	9:34-11:34	9:04-11:04
Wed	10:31-12:31	10:01-12:01

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Weather History

July 7, 1915 - Severe winds and thunderstorms caused heavy damage and 38 deaths in and around Cincinnati, Ohio. Many old buildings were demolished. The steamship "Dick Fulton" was overturned.

Four still sought in drug investigations

Investigators at the sheriff's office are wrapping up a two-month crackdown on drug dealers in the area with the arrests of eight persons June 29 for drug-related felonies including "doctor shopping" for prescription pills.

Four more suspects are being sought.

Andrea Maria Doss, 27, of Macclenny is wanted for filling identical prescriptions from multiple doctors here and in Jacksonville, a practice commonly called doctor shopping.

Investigators have obtained arrest warrants for Timothy Dale Hardenbrook, 44, also of Macclenny for trafficking Hydrocodone, Charlotte Thompson, 47, of Jacksonville for possession and sale of Xanax, and Timothy Michael Stewart, 20, of Glen St. Mary for possession of drug paraphernalia and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

"We arrested two-thirds of them, which is pretty much the standard we usually get," said Major Chuck Brannan, the chief investigator at the sheriff's office.

The investigations took place in May and June.

The resulting arrests came less than a week after the sheriff's Special Response Team served two warrants at west Macclenny addresses, arresting Tyrone Reed, 34, and Wesley Belford, 27,

and seizing cocaine, marijuana, cash and a .22-caliber pistol.

Maj. Brannan said the all the cases were made by investigators John Hardin and Mike Hauge, though he and Investigator David Morgan made the most recent arrests.

Those taken into custody last week:

- Romona Robertson, 23, of Macclenny for doctor shopping.
- Sandra Davis Thompson, 45, of Macclenny on two counts of possession and sale of Xanax.
- Colvin Cox, 27, of Macclenny for possession and sale of Xanax.
- Sandra Fay Mobley, 29, of Glen St. Mary for possession and sale of Xanax.
- Nathaniel Strachaniv, 22, of Macclenny on four counts of possession and sale of marijuana.
- Charles Edward Hadley, 55, of Macclenny on three counts of sale and possession of crack cocaine.
- Sheterrria Jackson, 36, of Macclenny was arrested for trafficking Hydrocodone and her brother, George Robert Jackson, Jr., 29, for possession and sale of crack cocaine within 1000 feet of a school.



Andrea Doss



Timothy Hardenbrook



Charlotte Thompson

Newspaper wins seven FPA awards

The Baker County Press returned from the Florida Press Association's annual convention last week with seven awards in FPA's 2010 Better Weekly Newspaper Contest.

Managing editor Joel Addington secured first place in the business writing category for "County in running for trade ports," a story examining a handful of inland port projects proposed in the region, including two in Baker County.

The front page story featured a map identifying the locations of each project by Advertising and Graphics Director Jessica Prevatt, which received second place in the individual graphic category.

"[The] great map proves that good graphics integrated into a story can complement and strengthen information presentation," reads the comments offered by judges in the contest. "Going beyond Baker County's two inland port projects to include three others and the chances for success and potential economic impact provides the paper's readers with context for a rapidly approaching key economic development issue."



PHOTO BY ERIN PETRIE

Jessica Prevatt, Kelley Lannigan and Joel Addington

Another graphic by Ms. Prevatt, one comparing breast cancer rates in the region, won third place in the same category.

Mr. Addington received second place honors in the environmental or conservation and

health categories for stories detailing the reduced water use in Macclenny after rate increases and the county's infant mortality rate spike in 2009, respectively.

Judges noted the "captivating" lead to the latter story about one mother's loss of a newborn baby.

Features writer Kelley Lannigan was awarded third place for her feature "Church launches 'Mercy House'" chronicling the establishment and development of the Raiford Road Housing Ministry Project.

The story spotlighted a facility

called Mercy House that provides temporary shelter for women facing a variety of life challenges during the transition from a bad situation to a more positive one.

"A community newspaper must focus on the needs of the residents in their community. This story honors that commitment," stated the judges.

Columnist and sports writer Bob Gerard landed third place honors as well in the humorous column category for "You ain't seen snow," a column about the trials of growing up in Buffalo, New York's wintery climate.

The judges comments: "It's hard to tell from this story which is fact and which is fiction, but that's what makes it so funny."

The Press competed in the under 7000 circulation division of the Florida Press Association's Better Weekly Newspaper Contest.

Mr. Addington, Ms. Prevatt, Ms. Lannigan and Publisher Jim McGauley attended the association's convention at the Vinoy Renaissance hotel in downtown St. Petersburg on July 1.

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Driver uninjured as rig flips on I-10 ramp in Sanderson

The driver of this semi-truck was charged with careless driving the morning of July 5 when his rig flipped exiting Interstate 10 eastbound at US 90 near Sanderson. Samuel Powell, 40, of Crestview, FL was not injured in the rollover that occurred about 10:20 and blocked both the cloverleaf exit and entrance ramps for several hours. A hazardous materials team from Jacksonville was summoned by county fire chief Richard Dolan (in photo on cell phone) because the trailer was leaking paint through the rear doors onto the road shoulder. Trooper K.M. Boatright of the Florida Highway Patrol said the cargo shifted as the rig rounded the sharp curve and it jumped a concrete median from the eastbound exit ramp and landed on its left side on the adjoining eastbound entrance pavement.

Husband violates protective order

Police arrested a Macclenny man for violating a domestic violence protection order banning him from the residence occupied by his estranged wife.

Christopher Gay, 34, allegedly went to the address on South Boulevard about 5:30 the morning of July 1 and argued with Crystal Gay, 41, about a vehicle he claimed belonged to him.

Ms. Gay told Deputy Robert Simpkins her husband was intoxicated at the time, and her juvenile age daughter also said he drove by the residence the next day while she was seated on a porch, stopped and pointed at her.

Mr. Gay was recently arrested for domestic violence against both the wife and step-daughter. He was restricted by the protective order from making contact

with them as a condition of his pre-trial release.

Deputy Simpkins interviewed him at the car repair shop where he works, and arrested him after Mr. Gay admitted to being at the residence that morning.

In another case over the July 4th weekend, a criminal complaint for aggravated battery was filed against Michael Jefferson, 44, for allegedly punching Kimmeshia Lloyd, 20, in the abdomen the afternoon of July 2.

Should the state attorney's office decide to prosecute, the charge is a felony because Ms. Lloyd told Deputy Jeremiah Combs she is eight weeks pregnant and Mr. Jefferson was aware of it.

Interviewed later, the accused admitted to being at Ms. Lloyd's residence off CR 127 N.

but denied striking her. He said he was there to retrieve a laptop computer, and disputed Ms. Lloyd's contention that he was angry with her for not spending the previous night at his residence.

The following day, Deputy Simpkins was called back to the address to investigate a threatening note that Ms. Lloyd and her mother Roxanne claimed was found inside the gas tank door on their vehicle.

They said it was penned by Mr. Jefferson and contained a death threat.

Deputy Simpkins obtained writing samples from both women and Mr. Jefferson, and noted in his report that the latter's script did not match that of the note. He added the one furnished by Kimmeshia Lloyd

most closely resembled it.

• Steven Collett, 30, of Macclenny was arrested for battery and disorderly intoxication after he allegedly attacked and fought with Danny Robinson, 59, of Glen St. Mary outside the Fastway Store on Woodlawn Rd.

A store clerk told Deputy Jason Bryan that Mr. Collett purchased a six-pack of beer the evening of July 2 and was drinking it when Mr. Robinson drove up.

He then accosted the victim while he was still seated in his vehicle, and later did \$500 damage to the windshield, the officer's report notes.

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\$7200 in rings are stolen in burglary

Four residential burglaries were reported to police the past week, including one that occurred a week earlier and resulted in the loss of two rings valued at \$7200.

Stanley Monds of Glen St. Mary said he last saw the rings on a kitchen table at his home-office on Washington St. on June 19. He told Deputy Patrick McGauley that entry likely was made through an unlocked sliding glass door.

He reported the loss on June 28.

In other reports:
• Johnetta Scriven returned to her residence on Long Dr. in Macclenny in the early afternoon of July 3 to find it had been entered and at least \$950 in property stolen.

Deputy Jeremiah Combs said it appeared a glass was broken on a rear door to gain entry

sometime after 9:30 the previous evening. Stolen items included a watch, necklace, Xbox, a laptop computer and a shotgun.

• Daniel and Dawn Kent returned to their residence on North Boulevard in Macclenny after an hour's absence late on June 30 and discovered a rear door was forced open.

Inside they found that someone had taken prescription medication, a camera, DVD player, rod and reel and a watch. The loss value was \$800.

• A window air conditioner valued at \$500 was removed from a vacant rental trailer owned by Phillip Jefferson on California Ct. near Sanderson.

The owner reported the loss on June 29 and said the theft occurred sometime in the previous four days.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Signs lease with aging council

99-year pact for transportation hub in west city

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

The county commission approved a lease with the Baker County Council on Aging on July 5 that paves the way for the county to receive a \$2.1 million grant to build a bus transportation hub on 10 acres of land that the council donated to the county last month.

The council had to give the land to the county in order to receive funding from the Florida Department of Transportation because only governmental agencies are eligible to receive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, grants.

The lease gives the council, which has been designated the county's community transportation coordinator, the right to operate a public transportation facility for 99 years on Buck Starling Road behind the Winn-Dixie shopping center just north of Interstate 10.

This will enable the agency to expand the scope of its mission, which traditionally has focused primarily on transportation services for the elderly and economically disadvantaged, including trips to pharmacies to pick up prescription medicine and medical appointments locally and to Jacksonville, Lake City and Gainesville.

County Manager C.J. Thompson said he anticipates completion of the new bus depot in 18 to 24 months.

The lease agreement requires the Council on Aging pay the county \$1 per year. In exchange, the county will be responsible for maintenance, insurance and utility bills on the property.

The issue of who should pay for maintenance and repairs on the facility, which could become quite expensive as the building ages, was discussed during

a commission workshop a few hours prior to the board's regular meeting.

Commission Chairman Michael Crews initially expressed reservations about the county agreeing to assume all the responsibility for utilities and maintenance on the building for the next century.

"I support the Council on Aging," he said. "However, we have to look at the county as a whole and look at our expenses across the board. I think it would be unwise to take on unknown costs."

Commissioner Gordon Crews pointed out that the county has always paid for repairs and utilities at the existing council building, which the county owns, while the council has taken care of minor things, such as replacing light bulbs and unlogging toilets.

He said the same type of understanding should continue under the lease agreement for the new transportation center.

"That's the way we've done it for the Council on Aging since I've been on the board," Gordon Crews said. "The county's going to own the building and I think it should be our responsibility to do the maintenance."

The chairman disagreed.

"The way it has been doesn't necessarily equate to the way it should be," Michael Crews said. "We won't have funds coming in to offset those costs."

Three representatives from the council, however, told commissioners that it would be impossible for the agency to fund all the day-to-day operating costs, plus pay all the utility and repair bills, and continue to provide the same level of services that are provided now.

Jackie Wright, the council's fiscal officer, stated that the county provides \$109,000 in funding assistance annually to the agency. If the council were expected to start paying its own utility and

repair bills, she told commissioners, "We would have to ask you guys for more than \$109,000 a year."

Bob Lambright, a council board member, asked commissioners to ponder the following question: If the agency had to close its doors tomorrow, who would provide transportation to the poor and elderly people now served by the council?

"We're doing work for the county ... not for profit," Mr. Lambright said. "We're functioning as a unit of the county."

Cherill Mobley, also on the council's board of directors and a volunteer driver, told commissioners that if the council went out of business the county would have to find a private company for the services that are provided now by volunteers.

Ms. Wright said the council's transportation services have become essential to many people in Baker County. Last year, for example, the agency's 18 vehicles logged 16,548 trips and traveled 293,486 miles for passengers, including many children who had to be taken to Nemours Clinic in Jacksonville.

After agreeing to have the county pay for all repairs above \$250 and the Council on Aging to take care of those maintenance items that fall under that amount, commissioners unanimously approved the lease agreement during the regular meeting.

In other business, commissioners:

- Agreed with the county manager that a task force should be established to determine how the county should handle the impact of residential growth and development now that the state's Department of Community Affairs, which previously had oversight authority over local comprehensive development plans, has been stripped of its power.

The manager recommended

the county, the school board, the tax collector's office and property appraiser's office have representatives on the task force.

The county is going to grow, he said, adding that the question is, "Who's going to pay for it?"

- Complied with a request from the Federal Emergency Management Administration to reimburse the agency nearly \$24,000 in money that had been overpaid to the county for storm cleanup efforts following the 2004 hurricane season.

- Voted to buy two new 2010 Dodge 4500 emergency rescue ambulances for a total price of \$282,519. Officials said the new units are needed to replace aging vehicles that have become increasingly unreliable, subject to frequent breakdowns and costly repairs.

- Accepted a bid of \$420 for a 1993 Chevrolet pickup truck that had been damaged and the county no longer needs.

Arrest for tossing block into window

A trio of vehicle vandalism cases were reported to the sheriff's department the past week, one of them resulting in the arrest of a Glen St. Mary man who fled the scene of a disturbance and was found walking on US 90 west of Macclenny.

Leonard Lee, 28, is accused of tossing a cinder block through the rear window of a parked 1992 Ford just after midnight on July 2.

Mr. Lee had been involved in an argument on Quail Lane and was angry after being in a fight, witnesses told Deputy Jason Bryan. Damage to the vehicle belonging to Avadon Carter was placed at \$500.

The witnesses also said he left in a vehicle with his mother. Mr. Lee was found walking unsteadily near the travel lane of US 90 shortly after being dropped off following a disturbance with his mother, and Deputy Patrick McGauley charged him with disorderly intoxication. A complaint for criminal mischief was also filed.

In other cases:

- Klate Jesseman, 25, was named in a similar complaint for damaging a 2007 Chevrolet truck belonging to Daryl Tyson of Glen St. Mary about 1:00 am on June 28.

According to the owner, Mr. Jesseman repeatedly struck the hood, doors, rear panels and window of the truck with a wire brush. He had moments before used the brush to defend himself during a fight with Tyler Payne of Glen off Owens Acres Dr.

- Allen Crews of Macclenny reported the convertible top of his 1992 Ford Mustang was slashed in two places while the vehicle was parked at a residence off Andrala Pl. the evening of June 27.

He was there about an hour, and when he left also noticed one of his tires was flat. He estimated damage at \$500.

Hides \$236 in groceries

A Sanderson woman was arrested for shoplifting the morning of June 29 after she attempted to leave Walmart in Macclenny with \$236 worth of merchandise she had stuffed into a purse.

Donna Davis, 41, was ob-

served by security staff going around the store and opening packages before stowing mostly grocery items. Others included hair coloring and a greeting card.

Deputy Earl Lord was told Ms. Davis paid for a \$3 item at the garden center before heading to the parking lot, where she was stopped and detained until police arrived.

In a second case, this one the afternoon of July 3, Milton Mathis, 56, of Tifton, GA was arrested after he attempted to leave the store with \$57 worth of merchandise he had placed into a Walmart bag. They included a window set and panel, shoes and hair color.

Mr. Mathis told Deputy Jeremiah Combs he intended to sell the items for cash, and was trying to get to Fort Lauderdale.

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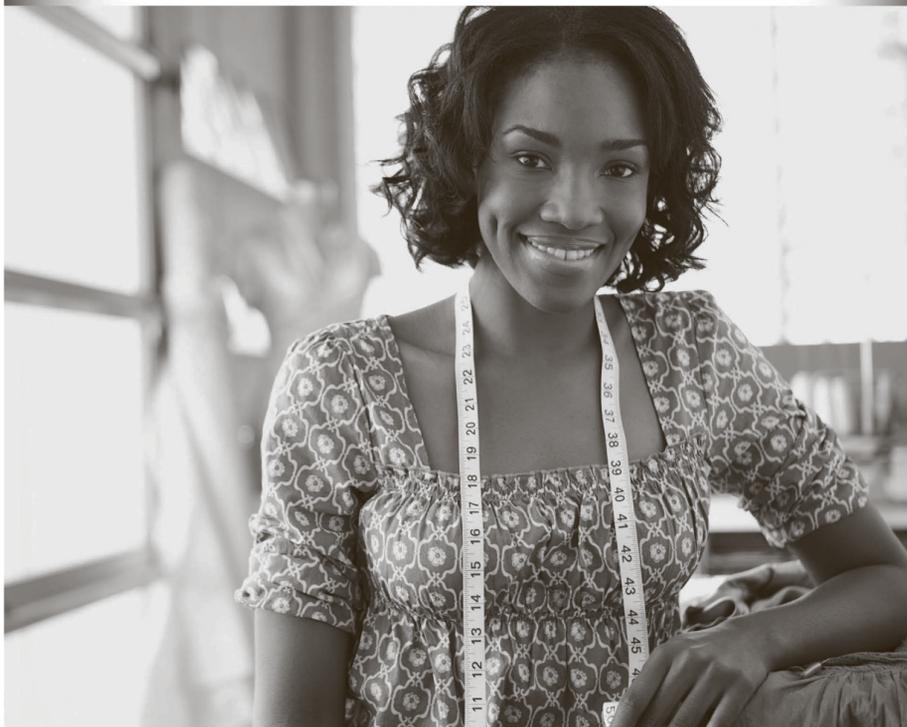
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Warren Dukes, center, helps Baker County EMS workers load Jerry Alford onto a stretcher.

PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Critical after snakebite

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

A family holiday outing proved nearly fatal for one member who was bitten by a timber rattlesnake at an Ocean Pond campsite near Olustee over the Fourth of July weekend.

Jerry Alford, 42, of Jacksonville, was flown to Shands Hospital following the incident about 3:30 pm Sunday.

Mr. Alford remained in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit late Tuesday evening, the victim's sister, Debbie Tekin, said.

According to witnesses, Mr. Alford was returning to the campsite on foot with several family members when he dropped his cell phone in the grass. He was bitten on the hand by the rattler as he attempted to retrieve it.

Remarkably, Mr. Alford grabbed the snake and carried it into the campsite, where family friend Warren Dukes reported he saw the victim begin to stagger and heard him say, "Warren, I'm going down."

Mr. Alford then collapsed, dropping the snake and losing consciousness.

Another camper heard the commotion and ran to the campsite with the machete he used to kill the snake.

As a call was made to 9-1-1, Mr. Alford's family members began frantic efforts to save his life until a rescue crew arrived.

They formed a circle around the victim, holding his head, supporting his chest and trunk. They applied tourniquets and kept ice on the punctured area in an effort to keep the venom from spreading rapidly.

"Stay with us Uncle Jerry, stay with us," one family member repeated over and over.

Baker County EMS arrived, then transported Mr. Alford to the Lifeflight helicopter waiting outside the campground.

"We nearly lost him twice that first night at the hospital," said Ms. Tekin. "He may lose a finger. His eyesight, liver and kidney function have been affected, but my brother is a real fighter."

The folks at the hospital said if he weren't so strong he wouldn't be here at all. It's really bad, but I think he's going to survive."

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I-10 driver wanted on 2 warrants

A North Carolina motorist stopped on Interstate 10 the morning of June 29 was found to be driving without a license and wanted on two out-of-state warrants.

Deputy Chris Walker said he caught up with a 1991 Buick driven westbound by Daniel Yaros, 36, of Winston Salem near Glen St. Mary after first noting the driver was not secured with a safety belt.

Mr. Yaros initially gave the officer a false name, and during a consent search of the vehicle his identity was established via a bank card. The existence of warrants from Georgia and New Hampshire for a drug charge and violating probation were revealed during a routine computer check, as was the fact that Mr. Yaros had no license.

He was charged with that offense and resisting without violence for giving the false name. Both states indicated they would not extradite.

In another warrant-related arrest, George Jackson, 32, of Macclenny was served with one on June 30 from Union County for failure to pay child support.

He was in county jail on another offense at the time.

OnStar credited with a stolen vehicle arrest

The OnStar satellite-linked system installed by General Motors in 30 of its models assisted Baker County officers in locating a vehicle stolen in St. Augustine early on June 30 and the arrest of its driver.

The sheriff's department was advised by St. Johns County about 4:00 am that a 2009 Hummer was westbound on Interstate 10 near Sanderson, and was notified again when it reversed direction and headed east toward Glen St. Mary.

Deputy Daniel Nichols said he spotted the vehicle and confirmed its license matched the one dispatched earlier, then because police were advised of the presence of a loaded firearm inside, initiated a felony stop near Macclenny.

He was aided also in identifying the vehicle because the OnStar alert system activated the vehicle's emergency flashers.

The sole occupant was identified as Lisa Dasher, 45, of St. Augustine, who said she had taken it earlier from owner Jeff Riberdy, also of St. Augustine.

She told Deputy Nichols she became angry after Mr. Riberdy, who she met earlier at a bar, had passed out and left

her handcuffed in a hotel room where they had gone to have sex. She was able to free herself and drove off with his vehicle.

Police found a loaded .357 pistol in a holster attached to the console near the driver's seat, along with two, 10-round magazines and 21 rounds of ammunition.

Ms. Dasher was booked for dealing in stolen property.

OnStar is also designed for use in crash response, navigation and roadside assistance.

Maj. Gerald Gonzalez, the sheriff's department operations chief, said this is the first case of its kind where OnStar played a role.

"I don't recall another, but that sure makes it easy," he added.

In another recent theft, someone removed a 9.9 hp motor from a boat docked on the St. Mary's River off L.E. Wilkerson Rd. on June 26.

Windell Wilkerson reported the theft the next day and placed the loss value at \$1978.



Lisa Dasher

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

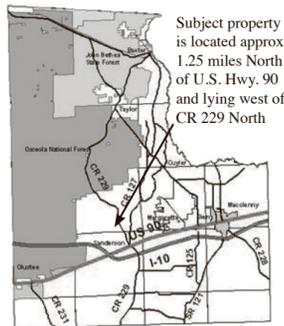
Notice is hereby given that the proposed ordinances, whose title hereinafter appear, will be presented in a public hearing to the Baker County Board of County Commissioners for possible adoption on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Baker County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida. Copies of said ordinances may be inspected by any member of the public in the Commissioner's office, address stated above. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinances which are titled as follows:

ORDINANCE: 2011-
AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 91-1, AS AMENDED, REGARDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WITH RESPECT TO A PARCEL OF LAND, BEING APPROXIMATELY 1.5 ACRES IN SIZE, RELATING TO THE SMALL SCALE DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 163.3187(1)(c), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS APPLY TO AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY REGINALD L. SMITH; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM AGRICULTURAL B LAND USE TO VERY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL 2.5 DU/AC; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE: 2011-
AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA REZONING 1.5 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY REGINALD L. SMITH FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG 7.5) TO RESIDENTIAL (RCMH 2.5); PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE: 2011-
AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 91-1, AS AMENDED, REGARDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WITH RESPECT TO A PARCEL OF LAND, BEING APPROXIMATELY 6.0 ACRES IN SIZE, RELATING TO THE SMALL SCALE DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 163.3187(1)(c), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS APPLY TO AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY JEFFERY D. SMITH; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM AGRICULTURAL B LAND USE TO VERY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL 2.5 DU/AC; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE: 2011-
AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA REZONING 6.0 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY JEFFERY D. SMITH FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG 7.5) TO RESIDENTIAL (RCMH 2.5); PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Persons interested in commenting on the proposed changes may appear and shall be given an opportunity to speak at the public hearing or may send written comments to: Baker County Planning Department, 360 E Shuey Avenue, Macclenny, Florida, 32063. Copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection at the Baker County Planning Department. For additional information, please call (9204) 259-3354.

NOTE: Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any member of the public desires to appeal any decision made at this public hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for that purpose may need to ensure that he/she transcribe a verbatim record of the proceedings, which record would include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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) 259-3613 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.



Glen utility project begins

This massive fitting was among several large junction units stored along with water main PVC pipes on town property in Glen St. Mary in anticipation of the start of a \$494,000 construction project connecting the north side of town to the central water system. The town selected Grimes Contracting, Inc. of Orange Park from among 13 bidders earlier this year for the project expected to take up to nine months to complete. It and accompanying engineering and supervising costs are covered by a \$600,000 CDBG grant similar to one that funded water service south of US 90 and central sewer along the main street.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Consider growing pomegranates here

**ALICIA LAMBORN
BAKER COUNTY
EXTENSION AGENT**

Pomegranates are native to southeastern Europe and Asia, but produce quality fruit in regions with cool winters and hot, dry summers. Few areas are too hot, and the pomegranate is cold hardy citrus.

Most pomegranates are cultivated in California, but a UF researcher specializing in horticulture science believes pomegranates could become Florida's next cash crop. The fruit is not currently produced commercially in the state, but the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred is currently studying the viability of pomegranate production in Florida.

Normally a dense, bushy, 6-12 foot tall shrub, the pomegranate may be trained as a small tree reaching 20 feet in height. Pomegranates produce purplish-red, apple-sized fruits with a smooth, leathery skin. Numerous seeds are each surrounded by a pink to purplish-red, juicy pulp, which is the edible portion.

The fruit contains healthy compounds such as antioxidants, nutrients and vitamins. Besides being edible, the pomegranate also makes an attractive ornamental, having glossy, dark green leaves and flaming orange-red blooms with crinkled petals and numerous stamens.

Pomegranate trees are self-fruitful, meaning they pollinate themselves. So if you think you have room for one in your yard, look for "Purple Seed" or "Spanish Ruby," which are popular dooryard cultivars, or "Wonderful," grown commercially in California.

Pomegranates are adapted to many soil types from pure sand to heavy clay. Yields are usually low on sands, while fruit color is poor on clays. Plant trees in early spring (February - March), avoiding late frost. When used as a hedge, plants are spaced 6-9 feet apart, otherwise spacing of 15-18 feet between plants and rows are used for orchards and for dooryard trees.

Severe fruit drop during the first 3-5 years is not uncommon and can be aggravated by over-fertilization and excess irrigation. Young trees should receive about 2-2.5 pounds of 8-8-8 (or similar) fertilizer in November and March, while mature trees require 4-6 pounds at the same intervals. In North Florida, pomegranate fruit matures from July to November, but excessive or late applications of fertilizer tend to delay fruit maturity and reduce color and quality.

For more information on growing pomegranates or other fruit trees, please contact me at the Baker County Extension Office by calling (904) 259-3520 or stop by the Ag Center, located at 1025 W. Macclenny Ave (Hwy

Workshop focus to be on relaxation

There will be a free workshop, open to the public, held Thursday, July 14 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at St. James Episcopal Church in Macclenny, with special invitation to those currently facing unemployment or other significant life changes.

The workshop will focus on a special breathing technique that promotes deep relaxation, improved physical functioning and increased mental and emotional clarity.

90) in Macclenny.

You can also receive monthly gardening information in your mail box by signing up for our free newsletter. Just stop by to complete our form or visit our website (<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>).

Legal Notices

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 02-2008-CA-000163**

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR SMLTI 2007-WFHEZ,
Plaintiff,
vs.
EDGAR M. WHITE A/K/A EDGAR M. WHITE, JR., ET AL,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated June 15, 2011 and entered in Case No. 02-2008-CA-000163 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR SMLTI 2007-WFHEZ is the Plaintiff and EDGAR M. WHITE A/K/A EDGAR M. WHITE, JR., ALICE F. WHITE, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BAKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE at 11:00AM, on the 25th day of July, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

PARCEL 17:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTH-EAST 1/4, SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, 999.74 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 152.50 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF A 50.00 FOOT ROAD, THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID ROAD 58.20 FEET, THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST, 279.98 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE CENTER OF A CREEK, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE MEANDER OF SAID CREEK TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SAID CREEK WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, 152 FEET MORE OR LESS, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST, 326.18 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

PARCEL 18:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTH-EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, 152.50 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST, 1032.91 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 135.00 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST, 291.75 FEET TO A CREEK, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE MEANDER OF SAID CREEK, 135.00 FEET MORE OR LESS, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST, 305.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING

A/K/A 8630 S BEN ROWE CIRCLE, MACCLEN-
NY, FL 32063

Dated this 21st day of June, 2011.

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

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 21st day of June, 2011.

Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jamie Crews
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F08071643 MNMC-CONV---Team 1
6/30-7/7c

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DAVID CREWS the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 08-00281
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2008

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

PARCEL 9

Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 7, and part of the Northeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of Section 18, Township 1 South, Range 21 East, Baker County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows: for a POINT OF BEGINNING commence at the Northeast corner of said Section 18, thence run South 72°32'45" West, a distance of 433.26 feet; thence run South 88°57'28" West, a distance of 275.00 feet to the East Right-of-Way line of Raulerson Road, said Right-of-Way line being in a curve concave Northeastly having a radius of 759.87 feet; thence run along and around said curve, a chord bearing and distance of, North 17°40'47" West, 203.03 feet; thence run North 89°06'03" East, a distance of 750.44 feet to the East line of said Section 7; thence run South 00°20'54" West along said East line, a distance of 70.26 feet to the point of Beginning.

Subject to a 30.00 foot easement for Ingress and Egress over the East 30.00 feet thereof.

ALL OF SAID PROPERTY BEING LOCATED IN BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: David Manucy, David Manucy Jr., James Robert Manucy.

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be re-deemed according to law, the property described herein will be sold to the highest bidder at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 11:00 am.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2011

AL FRASER
CLERK OF COURT
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Julie B. Combs, Deputy Clerk
6/16-7/7

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 02-2010-CA-00223**

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., A TENNESSEE CORPORATION AUTHORIZED TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN FLORIDA,
Plaintiff,
vs.

JAMES ROBERT MANUCY A/K/A JAMES R. MANUCY AND JENNIFER W. MANUCY A/K/A JENNIFER S. MANUCY F/K/A JENNIFER SUE WILLIAMS, HUSBAND AND WIFE; AND UNIDENTIFIED JOHN DOE(S) AND/OR UNIDENTIFIED JANIE DOE(S),
Defendants

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Plaintiff's Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on JULY 18, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. (EST), at the main entrance of the Baker County Courthouse, located at 339 East Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, Florida, the following described property:

A PORTION OF LAND LYING IN GOVERNMENT LOT 1, SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF CREWS ROAD (A 40.00 FOOT COUNTY ROAD) AND THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST; THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 269.03 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, 350.69 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 87 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, 326.11 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST, 267.52 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 54, PAGE 337, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 54, PAGE 337, 326.11 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST, 266.78 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

30.0 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS

A PORTION OF LAND LYING IN GOVERNMENT LOT 1, SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF CREWS ROAD (A 40.00 FOOT COUNTY ROAD) AND THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST; THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 269.03 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, 30.73 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, 670.14 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST, 30 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST, 676.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2006 CMH CLASSIC 52' X 28' MOBILE HOME, SERIAL NO. WHC015722GAA AND WHC015722GAB AND TITLE NO. 96756297 AND 96756338.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 18937 CREWS ROAD, GLEN ST. MARY, FL 32040.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 21st day of June, 2011.

Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jamie Crews
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
SONYA DAWNS, P.A./ATTN: ERIN GORDON
3116 CAPITAL CIRCLE NE, SUITE 5
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
PHONE: (850)668-5246
FAX: (850) 668-5352
EMAIL: EGORDON@DAWSLAW.COM
6/30-7/7c

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 02-2011-CP-034**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

ETHELRLINE JOHNSON
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that the administration of the estate of ETHELRLINE JOHNSON, deceased, File Number 02-2011-CP-034, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claim with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is JUNE 30, 2011.

Signed on June 22, 2011.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
ROBERT D. HINES
Florida Bar No.: 0413550
Hines Norman Hines, P.L.

1312 W Fletcher Ave., Ste. B
Tampa, FL 33612
Telephone: (813) 265-0100

Personal Representative:
Daisy Mae Parker
9381 Bennie Givens Ct.
Sanderson, FL 32087

6/30-7/7c

Dr. Nancy E. Davie
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

259-1758 — 117 S. Fifth St.

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 02-2011-CA-000028**

TD BANK, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY A SERIES OF MERGERS WITH MERCANTILE BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.

JAMES HARLEY NELSON AND LINDA KAY NELSON, HIS WIFE, ET AL,
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 17, 2011 entered in Civil Case No. 02-2011-CA-000028 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein TD BANK, N.A. is Plaintiff and JAMES HARLEY NELSON, et al., are Defendant(s).

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. MacClenny Ave., MacClenny, FL at 11:00 o'clock a.m. on the 18th day of July, 2011 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 14, FRANK COMBS CIRCLE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 89 AND 90 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A 1981 BRIGADIER SUNBURST MOBILE HOME VIN #GB1CS29450

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

Dated this 21st day of June, 2011.

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

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 21st day of June, 2011.

Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jamie Crews
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:

Daniel S. Mandel, Esq.
Daniel S. Mandel, PA
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2700 N Military Trail, Ste. 356
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel: (561) 826-1740
Fax: (561) 826-1741
6/30-7/7c

IN THE 7/7c

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 02-2010-CA-0135**

TD BANK, N.A., AS SUBSTITUTED PLAINTIFF FOR CAROLINA FIRST BANK, AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MERCANTILE BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.

RONALD O. GIVENS, ET AL,
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 15, 2011 entered in Civil Case No. 02-2010-CA-0135 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein TD BANK, N.A. is Plaintiff and RONALD O. GIVENS; t al., are Defendants(s).

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL at 11:00 'clock a.m. on the 25th day of July, 2011 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 32; THENCE S 89° 47' 15" W, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 403.29 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE PROJECTION OF THE EAST LINE OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1998, PAGE 6347, OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 01° 09' 05" E, ALONG THE SAID PROJECTION LINE, A DISTANCE OF 27.11 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE NE CORNER OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN SAID OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK; THENCE S 01° 05' NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SOUTH BOULEVARD (A 50 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY AS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED) AND THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS; THENCE N 89° 29' 05" W, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE AND ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 133.5 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LANDS; THENCE DEPARTING SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, N 01° 09' 05" W, ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 316.4 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LANDS; THENCE S 89° 29' 05" E, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE 133.5 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME LANDS AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1998, PAGE 6347, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

STREET ADDRESS: 531 S. BLVD., W. MACCLEN-
NY, FL 32063

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

Dated this 21st day of June, 2011.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 21st day of June, 2011.

Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jamie Crews
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:

Daniel S. Mandel, Esq.
Daniel S. Mandel, PA
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2700 N Military Trail, Ste. 356
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel: (561) 826-1740
Fax: (561) 826-1741
6/30-7/7c

**CDBG PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
1ST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Baker County Board of Commissioners is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Division of Community Development, for a FFY 2011 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$750,000. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

- To benefit low and moderate income persons;
- To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The categories of activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation. Additional information regarding the range of activities that may be undertaken will be provided at the public hearing. For each activity that is proposed, at least 70% of the funds must benefit low and moderate income persons.

In developing an application for submission to DEO, the Baker County Board of Commissioners must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned CDBG activities. In addition, the Baker County Board of Commissioners is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

A public hearing to receive citizen views concerning the community's economic and community development needs will be held at the Baker County Grants Office, 360 E. Shuey Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063 on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 1:00 pm. For information concerning the public hearing contact Maurice Postal, Grants Coordinator, 360 E. Shuey Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063. Telephone (904) 259-9825. E-mail: mauricep@bakercountyfl.org.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Maurice Postal at least two (2) calendar days prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Maurice Postal at least two (2) calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. Any handicapped person requiring special accommodation at this meeting should contact Mr. Postal at least two (2) calendar days prior to the meeting.

7/7c

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 02-2010-CA-0045**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORMERLY FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION (FHA), UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA),
Plaintiff,
vs.

ANN N. GRAY N/K/A ANN N. MILLER; GARY R. MILLER,
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on June 15, 2011, by the above entitled Court in the above styled cause, the undersigned Clerk of Court or any of his duly authorized deputies, will sell the property situated in Baker County, Florida, described as:

LOT 2, BLOCK A, MACCLENNY II, UNIT I, A SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE(S) 64 & 65 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 4104 HICKORY STREET, MACCLENNY FL 32063

At public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash on July 18, 2011, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063, subject to all ad valorem taxes and assessments for the real property described above.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, JAN PHILLIPS, TELEPHONE (352)374-3648, WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS SUMMARY. IF HEARING IMPAIRED, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, OR VOICE (V) 1-800-955-8770, VIA FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 21st day of June, 2011.

Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jamie Crews
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
FREDERICK J. MURPHY, JR., ESQUIRE
BOSWELL & DUNLAP, LLP
POST OFFICE DRAWER 30
BARTOW, FL 33831

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
TELEPHONE (863) 533-7117
FAX (863) 533-7412
6/30-7/7c

Is he still an outsider?

Davis talks teamwork, the school budget crunch, being 'incognito'

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The 2010 mid-term election swept many Republicans into office, giving the Grand Ole Party control of the US House and host of governorships including Florida's. National commentators framed the election as one in which voters "sent a message" to Washington about out-of-control spending and the need for more fiscal responsibility from our political leaders. Locally, Republicans performed well too.

Now, more than six months later, The Press is checking in with the newest members of the county commission and the school board to find out how the mostly conservative public officials are adjusting to life "on the hot seat."

Republican school board member Jesse Davis is a 35-year-old insurance broker, Macclenny resident, Orlando-area native, husband and father to three children. He responded to questions from The Press by e-mail during recent weeks as follows:

Q. How has being a school board member changed your life — at home, at work, at church, your routines, your emotions, your health?

A. Being a school board member has enlightened me to the real struggles behind-the-scenes that we face as a district and that our teachers face everyday. It has not necessarily changed my life, but it has certainly changed my outlook and has served as a daily reminder of how valuable our teachers are to the children of Baker County. The teachers are the real heroes and Baker County has some of the best in the nation. I hope everyone recognizes that.

Q. What do you miss most about being a civilian, so to speak?

A. Actually, the main advantage in not growing up in Baker County is that I remain relatively unrecognized in the community. This is a good thing because then I am able to catch real conversations and opinions about our school district. When someone doesn't know who I am, then they are more likely to give me their true and honest opinion about what their children are going through, how their child's teacher is doing and what they would like to see done. Not everyone is comfortable speaking directly to an elected official so I enjoy the fact that people don't know me because it helps me listen to the real way that the people of Baker County feel about our school district.

Q. So what's something useful or enlightening you've learned by being 'incognito'?

A. That we have to go to the parents to help equip them better because they are not coming to us. Education starts in the home and we have to do a better job at raising the value of education in this county. For many, going to school is just part of what you do while you grow up. They don't realize the doors that education opens for you. As businesses in this county close their doors and as the distribution centers and the mills and the prisons and the hospitals start to slow down and

cut off their hiring, our children will have to look to other communities to find jobs when they graduate from high school if they don't earn a spot in college. For many, that would involve moving out of the county and that only serves to hurt this community more.

Q. What has been the most challenging decision you've faced thus far and why?

A. My decision to vote against the insurance committee's recent recommendation regarding the district [insurance] Broker Services RFP. I have worked in the employee benefits insurance field for over 15 years and I had concerns over the process. I was the only "no" vote, but my decision was an educated decision based my experience and I will stand by it. Still, I think it was a valuable learning experience for everyone involved and I was proud that we produced an RFP since the district had never run an RFP for their insurance broker services before. All in all we are definitely moving in the right direction.

Q. What do you enjoy most about the job and why?

A. John Maxwell wrote that "Leadership is the ability to influence. Nothing more, nothing less." I am blessed and proud to be able to meet the children of Baker County and to speak to them about all of the possibilities that education can bring to them. We have amazing children here in Baker and when you couple that with the amazing teachers we have then the sky is the limit for some of these young men and young women. It will be rewarding to watch them grow into incredible adults and I hope to look back and say that in some small way that I was able to influence that.

Q. What has surprised you or what's something new you've learned or discovered about being in elected office now that you're there?

A. The biggest discovery you learn from being in office is that you are only "one" person. It is truly a team effort — win or lose. Everyone runs a campaign based on the fact that they can personally make the biggest difference on their prospective board but that is just not true. You realize very quickly that in order to accomplish anything that you have to have a team effort. I believe a lot of what doesn't get accomplished at any level of government is because not enough effort is put into building a team and so that trust level doesn't exist to have your ideas implemented.

Q. Is there anything you would have liked to have accomplished, beyond a different outcome on the insurance RFP, that hasn't garnered the support of enough board members to

make it happen?

A. I would say we are all pretty



Jesse Davis

much on the same page. Having gotten to know the other board members I can say fairly that there is not a single member there now that doesn't have the school district's best interest at heart. But we are all different people, so we just each come about it from a different perspective. Personally, I think that the high school grade issue is the most pressing non-capital issue we face. Keeping our teachers and staff employed and making sure the district can run financially is the most important capital issue, but we have got to turn that high school into a success and it has got to start in the homes. We need the support of all of the parents in the community. This is not an issue of how your home life runs. It is an issue of your commitment as a parent to make sure that your children have best chance of survival in this world. The teachers have a hard enough job teaching these children who are in very formidable years and many times these teachers are asked to play the role of substitute parent. We have the best teachers in the world and they give of themselves happily, but a stronger focus on education from the home would make a world of difference for our high school and all of our schools. A good education is the most important gift we can give our children and as the world grows more and more competitive there's little room for error. I don't want to see a single child from Baker County miss out on any opportunity because of a lack of education. It is heartbreaking.

Q. Why do you think you weren't successful at garnering this level of support on the RFP, or other issues?

A. As a board we are a championship team. Still, even championship teams sometimes have trouble in the locker room. The key to remaining a championship team is to leave those troubles in the locker room. If I have had any troubles it is because I have forgotten the old saying, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much

you care."

Q. Do you think it will get more or less difficult as time goes on, and why?

A. Unfortunately it is going to get much more difficult and especially for our district's administration. The funding demands from Tallahassee continue to grow and without the proper economic growth in our county then our school district will have a hard time keeping up with those demands. Unless things change, we have a perfect storm coming our way.

Q. How do you plan to respond to this "perfect storm?" School district finance chief Marcelle Richardson said the state included no funding for maintenance and repairs and cut per student spending, which along with expiring stimulus funding will necessitate dipping into reserves to avoid layoffs. Given the need for extensive repair work at BCHS, what would you like to see happen?

A. This is going to be one of those workshops where we lock the doors and don't come out until we have a solution. Even if it takes days. First off we have to give credit where it's due. Mrs. Richardson has done a heck of a job keeping us as fiscally sound as she knows how. Because of that we have weathered more than one storm that could have easily wiped us out. Still, hard times are coming for every level of government. Most of our funding comes from the state and as the state shrinks then so do we. In my opinion it is going to take a concerted effort locally by all government entities and support groups to make a difference. I believe that an aggressive economic development plan has

to take the front seat. We need business here in Baker and we need rooftops. Both of those can provide future revenue but the key is to provide concessions to get them here and sometimes that means easing up on the money that it costs businesses and homeowners to move here. We have to start thinking long term reward, but nobody likes to make that initial investment up front especially when you have no money to begin with. However, the long term gain is greater than anything in the present. Again, this would have to be a concerted effort by the school district, the Board of County Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Commission. Another option could be to solicit building repair funding grants from local non-profits. No matter how it gets done it is going to be a difficult task and I would ask the public to stay as informed as they can and to come to the board meetings so they know the true story behind the issues we face.

Q. What are your goals going forward?

A. My goals don't mean a thing unless I can get the buy in from the other board members and the administration. First and foremost it is imperative that we get our high school's grade up. From there we need to make sure

that we are as fiscally sound as we can be in order to protect the jobs of our teachers and district employees. In a perfect world I would love to see our high school get boys and girls varsity soccer teams, but I am afraid that may never happen.

Q. What are the barriers to getting soccer teams at BCHS, and what would you do to attempt to overcome those barriers?

A. I love soccer. It is one of my favorite sports to play and coach. As a former semi-pro soccer player myself, I can tell you that no one wants high school soccer in Baker more than me. I would even coach it for free. Unfortunately and realistically, it is not even a blip on the radar from a funding stand point. If I have to choose between a teachers salary and a soccer team then the teacher wins every time. The only real chance of bringing soccer to Baker County High School for both girls and boys would possibly be if a booster club or non-revocable funding source was created and contributed to the community and it had enough money at the start to maintain and fund the teams for multiple years. Outside of that I do not see any funds coming from the district to support any new or additional sports programs. But boy would I love it!

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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

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Bootsie Frederick, 75, of Sanderson

Bootsie Grace Frederick, 75, of Sanderson, died July 4 at the Acosta Rua Center for Caring in Jacksonville. Mrs. Frederick was born in White Springs and resided in Baker County for the past 30 years. She was the daughter of the late Ernest Daniel and Zeffie Johnson Grace.

Bootsie graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, was a homemaker most of her life and enjoyed cooking, sewing and gardening. She loved gathering with family and friends for social teas. She worked alongside her husband in the Labor of Love Ministry until his death in 2006. She also owned a small janitorial business.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Rev. Henry Durrell "Pop" Frederick; sons Clint Frederick and Charles Frederick. She was a loving and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend.

Survivors include daughters Cheryl (Jeff) Read, Fisherville, KY, and Cathy (Steve) Harvey, Sanderson; son Chris (Gayla) Frederick, Big Bear, CA; sisters Helen Bunkley, Keystone Heights and Clara Rhodes, Tallahassee; brothers Ernest (Dorris) Grace, Fruit Cove, and Charles (Jean) Grace, Keystone Heights; brother-in-law James "Butch" (Dianne) Frederick, Bryceville; twelve grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be conducted Thursday, July 7 at 2:00 pm in the Macclenny First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ricky Baldwin officiating. Interment will follow in the Cedar Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 6, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny.



Bootsie Frederick

Candis Thompson, an x-ray technician

Candis Lynda Thompson, 53, of Macclenny died on June 28, 2011. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia to the late William Blake and Carol Boatner Blake on August 1, 1957. She was a resident of Baker County for the last 23 years after moving from Jacksonville. Ms. Thompson was an x-ray technician at St. Vincent's Medical Center for 21 years. She was a fun loving, nurturing, caring and giving person and loved to cook.

Survivors include her son: C.J. (Jessica) Thompson of Macclenny; brother Dale (Renee) Blake of Jacksonville; aunt Barbara Boatner and granddaughter Kendall Thompson.

The funeral service for Ms. Thompson was held on Friday July 1 at 11:00 am at the chapel of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny with Pastor Grady Allbritton officiating. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Baptist Cemetery in Starke.



Candis Thompson

Harold Wilkerson of Jacksonville dies

Harold Wilkerson, 59, of Jacksonville died Saturday, July 2. He was the son of the late Lewis and Leola Smith Wilkerson, and a truck driver who attended the Otis Road Church of God.

Mr. Wilkerson is survived by his wife Deborah Wilkerson of Jacksonville; sons Lewis Wilkerson of Jacksonville, Brandon Wilkerson, Gerald (Toni) Wilkerson and Colson (Jennifer) Wilkerson, all of Macclenny; daughters Rebecca (Randell) Davis of Glen St. Mary and Catherine Townsend of Macclenny; brother Franklin (Linda) Wilkerson of Baldwin; step-children Robert (Renee) Graham of Macclenny, Tanya Rewis of Baldwin, and Lydia Wilkerson of St. Petersburg; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by daughter Alisha R. Wilkerson.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 am, Wednesday, July 6 at his church with Rev. John Spratlin Jr. officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Forbes Funeral Home, Macclenny.



Harold Wilkerson

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The tears that roll down my face are for you. I try to remind myself you always said, "Don't cry, baby girl, I will always be here with you," but now it's not the same. I can't touch your face and tell you how much I love you. It hurts, especially when the boys come to us and say how much they miss you and want to see you. It helps us to know that they remember you as you were and not in pain. They remember that smiling face of yours. You may not be here standing in plain sight with us, but we feel your presence. We love you, Granny, and miss you so dearly. I miss the days when we just sat at the house and watched Golden Girls together, so now I lay in bed and think of you being right there beside me watching it. Peyton and Bryce miss the Popsicles and kisses you used to give them. We love you dearly, Granny. It's hard to believe it has been a year now.....

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Mary Hicks, 72, dies in June 29th

Mary N. Hicks, 72, of Glen St. Mary died June 29, 2011. She was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey to the late Paul Sapp and Mabel Stott Sapp on February 28, 1939. Mary was a resident of Baker County since she was 18 years old after moving from New Jersey, and a member of First Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary. She was a store clerk at the Kwik Stop in Glen St. Mary for 20 years. She enjoyed playing bingo and eating Kit Kat bars. She was predeceased by her husband George Dale Hicks, Sr.

Survivors include her children: George Dale (Cali) Hicks Jr of Thomasville, GA, Paul Daniel (Cathy) Hicks of Port Orchard, W.A. and Terri (Billy) Wilds of Glen St. Mary; brother Paul Sapp of Niceville, FL; sisters Dee Lange of MA and Ethel Davis of NJ; 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

The funeral service for Mrs. Hicks was held on Saturday July 2 at 10:00 am at her church with Pastor Randy Williams officiating. Interment followed in Mantown Cemetery in Glen St. Mary. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the First Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary's Master Plan Fund in Mary's name.



Mary Hicks

Heartfelt thanks

Thank you to all the family and friends who have been there during this most difficult time. Your support through everything has meant more than you'll ever know. A special thanks to Baker County EMS, Baker County Fire Department, Ed Fraser ER staff, Pastor Grady Allbritton, Sheriff Joey Dobson and staff, county administration staff, the Moose Lodge and V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services. We thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts.

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'Retiring' as Ocean Pond camp hosts

Glen couple relishes role

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

Many people look forward to retirement as a time of relaxation and leisure or devote their days to the pursuit of new hobbies or volunteering for worthy causes.

Others take on a second career and keep working.

Retirees Cecil and Carol Davis of Glen St. Mary were searching for a way to combine all these aspects and found the perfect solution — camp hosting.

They are two of four people currently assigned as camp hosts at the Ocean Pond campground in the Osceola National Forest.

Camp hosting is a volunteer endeavor and has become popular with retired couples. Hosts must provide their own trailer and in exchange for certain duties, their camp site and utilities are free of charge.

Those duties typically include providing information and assistance to campers, monitoring the camp ground for the US Forest Service and doing some maintenance.

"I've been spending time at Ocean Pond and in the Osceola National Forest since I was a young boy," said Mr. Davis. "Carol and I often camp here and when we found out about the camp hosting position we started checking into it and then decided it was something we would be interested in."

The pace of a camp host's duties can be leisurely or brisk, depending on the amount of campers using the grounds. The Davises say hosting appeals to them because they enjoy the physical activity and the opportunity to interact with the public.

The recent July 4th holiday weekend was active at Ocean Pond with a steady influx of traffic into the campground. The couple busily zipped around in their camp-issued golf cart as they checked in campers just arriving.

Greeting new campers is a mainstay of their duties.

"We have a form to log the campsite as occupied. Then we greet the campers and inform them on the basic rules and regulations of the camp and answer any other questions they might have," said Ms. Davis.



Above: Camp hosts Cecil and Carol Davis. Right: Checking in campers.

For instance, campers need to know things such as where parking is permissible, the number of tents allowed on each site and what hour the evening quiet time begins. If there is a burn ban in effect, campers may be advised not to build fires at their campsites.

As Ms. Davis fills out the occupancy form at campsite No. 42, a man passes by on a bicycle. A small dog is sitting in the basket on the handle bars. She smiles and waves to him.

"It's amazing, people come here from all over the place," she said. "That man there on the bike, he's from South Africa."

Mr. Davis concurred. "Recently there was a girl here who was in the Canadian Royal Army," he said. "She was making her way across the United States to Hawaii, staying in different campgrounds. And some bikers showed up in the middle of a thunderstorm the other night. They were from Australia."

A typical day for Mr. Davis begins about 7:00 am when he makes a quick run through the camp section he is responsible for and checks the status of the campsites for occupancy. Then he cleans up the bath house and rest rooms.

"I finish that about 9:30 and have a coffee break," he says.

After that, any campsites that have already been vacated are cleaned up for the next campers to come in.

"We police the sites for any trash left behind and clean out the fire pits. I also go through and mow the grass when needed," he said.

Camp hosts may

Manual, which explains all policy for federally regulated parks and campgrounds. The procedures at each camp may vary but are all grounded in the established policies.

Throughout their assignments, hosts keep in contact with recreation program managers and have access to game wardens and forestry law enforcement officers when the occasion for such support arises.

For example, in case of an accident or injury, hosts call 911, inform game wardens and help guide in emergency vehicles to specific locations if necessary.

Having grown up in the area, Mr. Davis can easily tell visitors how to get to the nearest store, what other recreational activities are nearby and where restaurants are located.

"Campers are always asking questions and need to know things," said Mr. Davis. "That's a main part of being a host."

"So far, it's been a really rewarding experience," said Ms. Davis.

As the 4th of July holiday began to wind down and sunset descended over Ocean Pond, the couple kicked back at their campsite's shaded picnic table to relax and enjoy the evening.

"The greatest thing about doing this is being in this beautiful place. And the wildlife you see — it's really special," said Mr. Davis.

He spoke of a family of deer that recently took up residence in the campground and the thrill campers got when they frequently spotted the doe and her two fawns.

"We see hawks and egrets and herons. Sometimes you can spot bear prints on the ground and once in a while a gator. I love that everything here, the plants and animals, are protected," he said.

The area is special to Mr. Davis for another reason.

"This forest was named for one of my Native American ancestors, Osceola, so I have a special connection," he said. "I love it here. I could spend the rest of my life right here at Ocean Pond."



also work a select number of hours at the camp's gate house.

At the beginning of their assignments, which are typically six months long, hosts are given a copy of The Forest Volunteer

BCCS relocated

Baker Community Counseling Services has relocated to 56 North 2nd Street and will hold a grand opening-open house on July 11, 2011 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The public is invited to attend to enjoy refreshments and tours of the facility. BCCS is a licensed outpatient substance abuse treatment provider. It was formerly located on East Macclenny Avenue.

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Trio of fires remain active here

Three wildfires totaling almost 26 acres remained active in Baker County early this week, according to an update from the Florida Division of Forestry spokesman Kurt Wisner.

The largest at 16.2 acres is located near Moccasin Creek, though smaller fires of 6.5 acres and 3 acres are located near Possum Trot and Noel Road, respectively.

All three wildfires were sparked by lightning, Mr. Wisner said.

Throughout the Suwannee Forestry Center's operational area, which includes Baker County, there are 6,322 acres burning.

Officials continue to monitor and mop up the Honey Prairie Fire Complex in southern Georgia and the Impassable Bay and Kelley Fire Complex in the Osceola National Forest.

Baker, Bradford, Hamilton and Union Counties are still under county-imposed burn bans.

Some relief is on the horizon, however.

Mr. Wisner said that while heavy showers recently have lowered the drought index into the moderate range, there remains the potential for "active fire behavior."

"The National Weather Service shows our area currently in severe-to-extreme drought conditions, but the forecast shows improvement through September," he added.

But showers can also mean thunderstorms.

"Even areas which have not received thunderstorms in several days may still see new starts from lightning as these fires may smolder until surface conditions become dry enough to ignite," said Mr. Wisner.

Statewide, wildfire activity is declining dramatically as weather conditions turn toward seasonal tropical patterns and more afternoon thunderstorms, he said.

As of July 5, there were 96 active wildfires across the state, which down from 440 fires two weeks ago.

Twenty-three of the fires are greater than 100 acres in size.

Twenty counties continue to have burn bans in effect.

Sightings of fire, flames or suspicious activity should be reported to the Suwannee Forestry Center, (386) 758-5700.

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Birth announcements, wedding notices and social events (military service notes and school graduations) 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.

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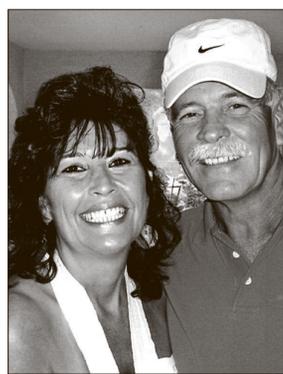


Vows June 25th

Kristin Ann Griffith and Matthew Nicholas Simmons, both of Macclenny, were wed Saturday June 25 at Pratt's Resort in Lake Placid, Florida.

The bride's parents are Christina and Sean Sullivan, and the groom's parents are Carol and Johnny Simmons, all of Macclenny. Grandparents of the bride are Joni and Harlo Sullivan of Macclenny, Wanda and JR Smith of Macclenny, Johnny Stratton of Jacksonville and the late Edna Stratton.

Following a honeymoon at South Beach, Miami, the couple resides in Macclenny.



Wed June 25th

Robert Wayne Harvey and Johnnie Patricia (Tricia) Crews, both of Macclenny, were united in marriage in a private ceremony in Salt Springs on June 25.

Robert is the son of the late J.W. (Bo) and Annie Ruth Harvey, and is employed by the City of Macclenny.

Tricia is the daughter of Linda J. Williams and the late Carlos L. (Buck) Rodgers, and is employed by Lender Processing Services of Jacksonville.

After returning from a honeymoon on Sanibel Island, the couple will reside in Macclenny.

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'Elephants' has beauty, story too

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FEATURES
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Water for Elephants is one of those movies, and there are a few every year, that simply must be seen on the big screen to be fully appreciated.

This cinematically gorgeous film can stand on the merit of its sheer esthetic qualities alone.

Don't be fooled by all the beauty. Set in the early years of America's Great Depression, the story is as gritty as it is uplifting.

Based on the novel of the same name by author Sara Gruen, *Water for Elephants* revolves around the memories of ninety-three year old Jacob Jankowski (actor Hal Holbrook) who once worked as a veterinarian for the struggling Benzini Brothers circus in the early 1930s.

Born to successful Polish immigrants, everything in Jacob's world is idyllic, even in the midst of the depression.

But unexpected tragedy prevails and in the blink of an eye, the only future he had envisioned and planned for evaporates like mist.

With no money and no direction he impulsively hops a passing train and his life, for the second time in only a few days, drastically changes.

Response from movie critics for *Water for Elephants* has been less than enthusiastic, which I think is truly undeserved.

It has all the elements of a great story - tragedy, perseverance against overwhelming odds, forbidden romance, intrigue, violence, good and evil - all in a remarkable setting that showcases, as August, the antagonist of the

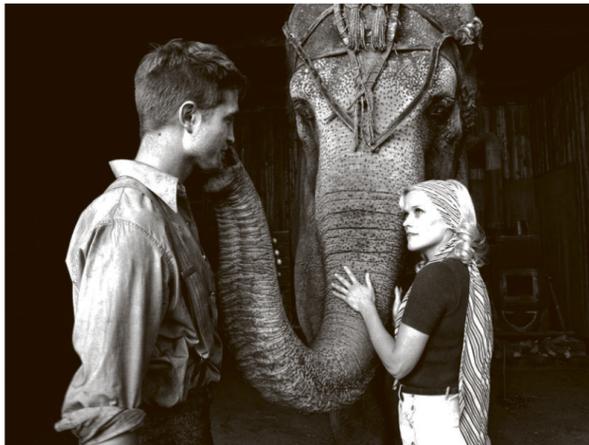


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID JAMES™ AND © TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION
Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon with Rosie the elephant.

story so aptly says in one scene "A life most suckers can only dream of."

If *Water for Elephants* has been dismissed by some media naysayers, David Stratton, former film critic for the international film industry magazine *Variety* said "I think it's maybe the best circus movie since *The Greatest Show on Earth*."

Reese Witherspoon plays Marlena, the sensitive and kind wife of August, the circus' charismatic but delusional and sometimes psychotic owner, aptly portrayed by Christoph Waltz.

Ms. Witherspoon's performance in this movie has been deemed unremarkable by critics. But Marlena is not an "in your face" character - she is gentle and reserved, sensitive, a lover of animals. If Ms. Witherspoon's acting and interpretation of the character seems unremarkable it also seems accurate based on how the character was written in

the novel.

Visually, she is the epitome of glamour in the way actresses of Hollywood's golden age were. In that respect, I can't think of anyone I would have liked better in this part.

Although his role is not a large one, Jim Norton, who plays Mr. Mason in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is wonderful as Camel, the Jamaican ginger extract drinking veteran circus worker who befriends Jacob.

Rosie the elephant is as much a star as the actors. She is amazingly smart and has a sense of loyalty and justice. At one point Jacob and Marlena nurture her back to health after a severe beating and she doesn't forget. She also loves a treat. The pink lemonade scene is a show stopper.

The movie is rated PG-13 for sexual violence and sexual situations. The scenes of cruelty to Rosie by August are brutal, but necessary to tell the story. Those

scenes, involving a tool called a bull hook, are the only parts of the movie where computer generated imagery is employed to make it seem authentic.

Although there is sexual tension between Jacob and Marlena, the director chose to allude to it more than graphically portray it, which is refreshing. Throughout the film, attention to detail is notable, as is the realistic portrayal of the life of circus performers and workers at the time.

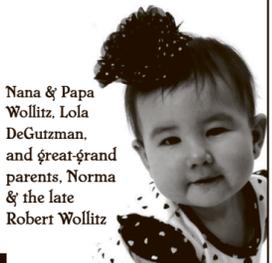
Two years ago, I visited the Ringling Museum in Sarasota which contains a comprehensive exhibit on this subject and the movie is an accurate parallel - right down to the circus train.

Interesting trivia fact: The novel *Water for Elephants* was alluded to in another film *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X*. The protagonist, Daniel X, is reading the book and comments that it is "A honey of a story!"

If you love the circus, trains, animals and a good love story in a remarkable setting, *Water for Elephants* is for you.

Samantha Wollitz
Happy First Birthday
July 7th

We thank God every day for giving us one of His angels. We love you.



Nana & Papa Wollitz, Lola DeGutzman, and great-grand parents, Norma & the late Robert Wollitz

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Land transactions recorded the last three months

The following land transactions were recorded in the Baker County courthouse from April - June of 2011. Values are derived from documentary stamps. Many descriptions are by S(ection) T(ownship) R(ange). If acreage or price are not listed, none were indicated in the documents.

STITES, DARIN O to OVERSTAKE, LYNN E in 33-25-22E, \$180,000

POLIQUIN, JAMES N to MCVAY, PATRICIA A in LT 3,4 BLK 1 MACCLENNY HGHTS, \$40,000

TYRE, WILBUR E to LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES INC in LT 5 BLK 3 COUNTRY ESTATES, \$50,600

BAKER, JACK A JR to JOHNS, SCOTT E in LT 67 OLD NURSERY PLANT, \$350,000

MILTON, TIMOTHY O to KING, BRIAN E J in 25-25-20, \$55,000

GARRISON, HILDRIK L to STEGALL, ADDISON JR in 32-25-22E, \$126,000

SPENCE, MICHAEL to YARBROUGH, WILLIAM BRIAN in 04-35-22E, \$47,801

MULLINS, CAROL R to RAYMOND, LESTER A in LT 7 WHISPERING PINES, \$150,000

MARETH, JERRY P to BRIGGS, MICHAEL in LT 14 HUNTERS RIDGE GLEN PLANTATION, \$215,000

SMITH, ALEXANDER G TRUSTEE to KOLKE, BRIAN in SUBURBAN HEIGHTS PB-2 PG-101 13-35-21-0134-0003-0010, \$3,550

KING, DONALD ROY JR to FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION in 11-45-20E, \$157,398

JOHNSON, TOMMY DALE JR to SMITH, BRYAN W in 20-35-21E, \$235,000

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC to IRWIN, DAVID LEWIS in LT 16 BLK 1 MACCLENNY SOUTH, \$42,000

YARBOROUGH, JAMES M to PAYNE, LARRY L SR in 01/12-45-20E, \$175,000

CANNON, JULIAN to MRC ROMEO PROPERTIES LLC in 04-35-22, \$185,000

PHILLIPS, GARY W to WILLMOTT, CHARLES E in 30-25-22, \$280,000

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION to MILTON, CHRISTOPHER B in LT 13 COPPER CREEK HILLS UNIT 2, \$142,500

RAULERSON, ERIC to HAYGOOD, GAIL LAVERNE in 33-25-21E, \$2,800

MARKER, VERNA D to GAINES, DONNIE R in LT 2 HILLS OF GLEN, \$130,000

DRISCOLL, KURT F to DUKE, JEFFREY B in 23-35-21, \$300,000

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT to ELLIS-BAILEY, DEBORA in LT 12 BLK A MACCLENNY II UNIT II, \$135,500

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SYSTEM FLORIDA INC to GRAY, ROBERT F in 30-25-21E, \$125,000

GOLF VIEW PROPERTIES LLC to RHODEN, MESHELLE D in 30-25-22E, \$20,000

GUERRA, DANIEL to JUROVOSCHI, CORNEL in 16-25-21E, \$45,000

BENNETT, MICHAEL W to HIGGINBOTHAM, MARY N in LT 33 HUNTER RIDGE AT GLEN PLANTATION, \$193,000

TD BANK NA to NATIVE LANDS LLC in 06-25-22E, \$21,450

TD BANK NA to STONE, ANDREW W in 07-25-22E, \$2,860

TD BANK NA to FENNELL, TERRY EDWARD in 33-15-21E, \$22,550

GROOMS, ROBERT E to BASS, ERWIN D JR in 01-25-21E, \$64,000

MCVAY, PATRICIA A to MYNES, TAYLOR A in MACCLENNY HEIGHTS LOT 3 AND 4 BLOCK 1, \$55,000

HOMESALES INC to HARVEY, KELLI D in 06-35-22E, \$85,000

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT to DAVIS, TERRELL R in LT 5 RIDGE ESTATES, \$44,051

PALMERI, ANTHONY M to DONKER, JACK G in 12-3-21E, \$35

DMAC OF LAKE CITY INC to JEFFERSON, CARLOS DAVON in 33-25-21E, \$35,000

WYNNE, JAMES DANIEL to STARLING, MICHAEL in LT 8 BLK A EM BROWN PLAT, \$12,000

LAND AND PROPERTIES OF NORTH FLORIDA INC to PERKINS, GWENDOLYN in LT 1 BLK 7 ER RHODEN ADD, \$85,650

HODGES, ROBERT B to AMERICAN ENTERPRISE BANK OF FLORIDA in 11-25-21E, \$36,600

CASTLE, CLINT to PRIDE, AUSTIN S in 11-25-21E, \$200,000

WILSON, JERRY N to RICE, ERIK H in 04-35-22E, \$170,000

WHEATON, JAMES THOMAS to SCOTT, JAMES in PAR 43 07-35-22E, \$48,000

COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION to ROTHFELDT, BRIAN E in 05-25-22E, \$69,000

ELIZABETH L DAVIS REVOCABLE TRUST to COLEMAN, JAMES M JR in 07-25-22E, \$50,000

MACCLENNY PARTNERS LLC to SOLIDA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION in 05-35-22E, \$830,000

ADDITION TECHNICIAN & MORE INC to CREWS, KASEY in 11-25-21, \$20,000

MAYHALL, ANTHONY W to RHODEN, ASHLEY in PART BLK 43 MACCLENNY, \$30,000

DOBBS, GLENDA TIPPINS to HOSFORD, JOHN A in LT 13 14 BLK 5 OWENS ACRES, \$190,000

BARBOUR, MARK to LEE, JEREMY in 09-35-22E, \$100

REWIS, SHEILA D to NORTH FLORIDA LAND EXCHANGE LLC in LT 18 DEERWOOD ESTATES, \$25,000

DREES HOMES OF FLORIDA INC

to MANN, AMANDA A in 19-25-22E LT 118 ROLLING MEADOWS, \$138,000

MACGLEN INC to NEUBAUER, DUANE D in PAR 31/32 BRIARWOOD, \$7,700

FANNIE MAE to P & Y PROPERTIES LLC in 05-25-22E, \$42,500

LEADBEATER, SUSAN W to MORRIS, ARTHUR D in LT 76 OLD NUSERY PLANTATION, \$210,000

FANNIE MAE to LAWSON, RONALD in LT 28 BLK B MCCLENNY II UNIT II, \$128,000

SANXTER, PHYLLIS A to WATTS, BARRY L in LT 46 COPPER CREEK HILLS UNIT I, \$184,000

HILL, JULIAN C to KIGHT, JAQULEYN D in 26-25-22, \$54,900

DUVAL GUN AND PAWN INC to WILLIAMS, MATT in 32-25-22E, \$185,000

LONG BRANCH FARMS LLP to ROWELL, DAVID W in LT 32 LONGBRANCH, \$37,500

MOSS, KURK to CARDOZA, ADAM in LT 19 LONGBRANCH, \$125,000

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE to HEMBREE, ASHLEY in LT 5 BLK 8 LABEUNA ESTATES, \$112,900

SMITH, JIMMY M to TRIMM, BRUCE in 14-45-20E, \$20,000

LANHAM, BETTY JANE to LANHAM, BETTY JANE in 07-35-22E, \$34,800

TRIMM, BRUCE E to AUTUMN INCOME PARTNERSHIP LLC in 14-45-20E, \$100,000

GRIFFIN, LENA D to GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC in LT 17 CONFEDERATE FARMS, \$50,698

WRIGHT, GAYLE D to KIGHT, MICHAEL S in 06-15-21E, \$52,852

FREY, MELODY to SCHMEHL, DANIEL L JR in LT N BLK 1 MACCLENNY, \$115,000

HUNTER, ANNETTE H to HUNTER, RANDALL J in BLK 6 MACCLENNY, \$44,000

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY TRUSTEE to HUNT, JESSICA in 32-25-22E, \$79,000

TD BANK NA to MACKIE, BRUCE R in 08-25-21E, \$160,000

GLEN PLANTATION LTD to BALSAMO, CHRISTIAN B in LT 4 BEAR CREEK, \$59,900

SCHORSCH, LAURIE to LUCAS, VIVIAN E in 19-25-22E, \$34,500

SIKES, ELAINE to PERRY, STANLEY A JR in PAR 23 ALLEN LANDS, \$65,000

ROBINSON, JACQUELINE M to YINGLING, JUSTIN in 20-35-21E, \$45,000

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC to WAYNE FRIER HOME CENTER OF MACCLENNY LLC in 32-25-22E, \$30,000

5-35-22E, \$490,000

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC to WAYNE FRIER HOME CENTER OF MACCLENNY LLC in 20-25-22E, \$35,000

ROBERTS LAND & TIMBER INVESTMENT CORP to TD BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION in 11-14-15 TS35 - R20E, \$1,235,000

PLUM CREEK TIMBERLANDS LP to YOUNG, MARK J in 02-45-21E, \$157,600

WALL, PERRY L to MASTERS, GLEN W in 12-25-21E, \$122,500

DREES HOMES OF FLORIDA INC to SMITH, BRINCE J in LT 79 ROLLING MEADOWS, \$145,325

HODGES, ROGER to DUGGER, KEVIN D in 08-35-22E, \$110,000

KENNEDY, JESSICA ANN to COLLINS, IRMA R in 07-35-22E, \$57,000

FISCHER, JASON AARON to REED, JOHN P in LT 17 LONGBRANCH, \$197,000

SEDA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY to CRAWFORD, SIMON P in LT 88 SANDS POINTE SUB, \$175,000

HURST, DAVID W to FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF FLORIDA in LT 5 6 BLK 47 GLEN ST MARY, \$40,000

HARTLEY, ANDREW K to PIPPINS ALLEN P II in LT 23 MACCLENNY ACRES, \$135,500

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT to CREWS, JAMES in 36/15-15-10E, \$41,000

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION to MILONAS, JOHN in 28-25-22E, \$97,500

WELLS FARGO BANK NA to WILFORD, STEVE in 32-25-22E, \$35,000

AMERICAN GENERAL HOME EQUITY INC to CREWS, DARRELL in 32-1N-21E, \$33,000

NEWMAN, JEFFREY H to DREAMLAND PLAYSETS INC in , \$30,000

W H GROSS COMPANY to KITTRELL, THOMAS J in 5-35-22E, \$260,000

ABC LIQUORS INC to MACCLENNY PARTNERS LLC

TRUST COMPANY to HYDE, GREGORY L LT 13 CYPRESS POINT UNIT I, \$138,000

FOURAKER, EARL LAMAR JR to HAIR, DAVID 08-15-21E, \$39,271

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Since I'm writing this on July 4th, I have to admit to a guilty pleasure. I love the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition at Coney Island, NY. The "cradle of competitive eating," as one overwrought commentator called it was once again the place where Joey "Jaws" Chestnut showed his stuff.

Shoving hot dogs down his throat, Chestnut outscoored Pat Bartoletti with 62 to his credit in 10 minutes to take home the "coveted" Mustard Yellow Belt. Chestnut holds the world record of 68, but didn't have his chief competitor, Tokeru Kobayashi, who for the second year running did not compete.

Over the last eight years, Wimbledon has been ruled by the Dynamic Duo of tennis, Swiss Rodger Federer and Spaniard Rafal Nadal. They swapped titles back and forth and in the process produced some great matches.

But there's a new sheriff in town, a tall, laconic Serb by the name of Novak Djokovic, who demolished Nadal in four sets and sent legions of Serb fans into a frenzy of partying in the streets of London.

Serbs don't really need much of an excuse to party hearty, but they got it on Sunday. Djokovic

won the first set 6-4 and the second 6-1. Then Nadal broke back to win 1-6. After that, Djokovic tightened up and won the final set 6-3.

After winning, the Serb commenced a rather strange celebration. He bent down and picked several blades of grass and ate them.

Nadal was a familiar figure in the final, his fifth in six years. Djokovic is no household name like Nadal or Federer, but nobody has had a better year. He recently got the No. 1 ranking and Wimbledon is his third Grand Slam win this year.

Pretty impressive for a guy most people don't even know. Unless you follow tennis, there are only a few big names. Federer and Nadal on the men's side. Maybe Andy Roddick, the American. On the women's side the Williams sisters and Maria Sharipova. Beyond that, probably no one.

Tennis has become a European sport as fewer and fewer Americans are in the top flight. Since Pete Sampras retired, there aren't many American men competitive with the top-tier players from Europe. You can never count out the Williams sisters, though they are playing in fewer and fewer tournaments.

FAT LADY

ROBERT GERARD

Friday. The Biscuits are a game up on the Suns in the division and there is nothing the Suns would like more than to climb up the standings on the backs of their rivals from Alabama.

The Suns open the series at 7:05 pm on Friday and the first 2000 fans get a new Suns card set. The San Diego Chicken will be in town as well to entertain fans. On Saturday the game starts at 6:05 pm. Dress in your favorite Caribbean shirt for the return of Buffett Day. The first 3000 fans receive a bobble head doll in a Hawaiian jersey. Jimmy Buffett-style jerseys will be auctioned off during the game.

On Sunday the game starts at 3:05 pm and kids receive Color Me Magnets. There will also be a

Suns win two in 6-game series

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

It's been a rough week for the Jacksonville Suns as they faced off against division leading Birmingham. The Suns started out in third place with a chance to narrow the Barons lead and perhaps overtake them.

But the Barons showed why they are the top team in the Southern League this year, handing the two-time defending champion Suns four losses in the six game series and dropping them to the South Division cellar.

The Suns have a chance to redeem themselves next weekend when they face off against the Montgomery Biscuits in a four-game home stand starting on

concert after the game. Monday wraps up the home stand with a special 1:05 pm game.

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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.bakercountypress.com

Nods to Duke, So. Miss.

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

The Wildcat varsity football team got off to an auspicious start this past week as two of its top players committed to Division 1 schools.

Senior quarterback Thomas Sirk committed to ACC up-and-comer Duke, while Kendrick Singleton committed to Southern Mississippi.

For Sirk, it was the opportunity to work with Coach David Cutcliffe that put Duke out in front of Tennessee and FSU, the two other front runners on his dance card.

Sirk anticipates learning the quarterback position from someone who taught the famed Manning brothers, Peyton and Eli, both former Blue Devils.

"It is a special opportunity to know that I can learn from that same person," said Sirk. With the commitment, Sirk will pass on trips to FSU and Tennessee this summer.

Sirk has played quarterback, receiver and on defense, but sees his future as a Duke quarterback. At 6'5" and 210 pounds he has the size to see over defenses.

The academic side also had a lot to do with his decision.

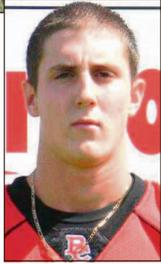
"Duke obviously is one of the top schools in the country," said Sirk. "I know I cannot go wrong with a degree from there whether my future continues in football or it doesn't. That is a degree that opens a lot of doors and provides a lot of opportunities."

Singleton made his decision to become a Golden Eagle after going to camp in Hattiesburg. He liked the school and the coaching he received during the camp. "I loved the coach's style and they are all just great people. I love them all, they are great guys and excellent coaches," said Singleton.

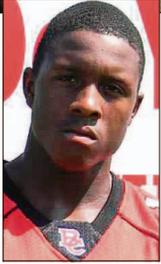


PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

Above is Thomas Sirk during a game last season. The quarterback has committed to attend Duke University in the fall.



Thomas Sirk



Kendrick Singleton

Singleton, who has also played a variety of positions for the Wildcats, will have to wait until he gets to school to see where the Eagles will put him. But he is not concerned.

"I feel like Southern Miss is a place where I can go and be successful," said Singleton.

Like Sirk, Singleton is also excited about the academic aspect. He has a special reason for wanting a college education.

"No one in my family has ever been to college, and to know that they are giving me a chance to get a degree and play football, it is just a blessing. I am thrilled about this opportunity," he said.

So, after this season Wildcat fans will hopefully be able to continue to follow the careers of some their favorite players.

Sharks back after only second loss

The South Division arena football champion Jacksonville Sharks lost their first game since March on the road to the San Jose SaberCats on Saturday.

The 80-73 loss was only the second of this season. Both losses have come on West Coast road trips.

The 13-2 Sharks will be back in the friendly confines of the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena on Saturday to face off against the Dallas Vigilantes. The 10-5 Vigilantes are in second place in the Central Division.

The Sharks, who have already clinched home field advantage

for the playoffs beginning at the end of this month, have only two games left on the schedule after they face Dallas.

They travel to Kansas City to take on the Command and are back in Jacksonville for the final regular season game against the Spokane Shock.

The Sharks boast the best record in the Arena League. They are tops in total offense and pass efficiency. If they have a weakness it is their defense, ranked 15th in the league. So far, however, they have been able to match or better what their opponents put up.

Baker County Touchdown Club Youth FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADER

SIGN-UPS

Saturdays ~ July 2- August 6
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

All sign-ups are at Memorial Field behind the BP station on Hwy. 90.

Fee \$65 football, \$55 cheerleaders

Copy of birth certificate and proof of insurance a MUST. Child must be present at sign-ups to be fitted for uniform.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN WEBER

Pictured from left to right: Coach Kevin Wilson, Anna Bowen, Ashton Alford, coach Phillip Lefebvre (back), Lake Lewis, Angel Jackson, Kasey Weber, Kaylon Golden, Madison Kennedy, Peyton Parker, Kelsey Strickland, Callie Paine, Mason Filosi, Peyton Staggs and coach Riley Strickland.

Major League girls clinch district title

The Major League softball girls brought home the Little League's District 11 title June 30 with a 13-3 pasting of San Mateo in San Mateo. They were dominant throughout the tournament, defeating Yulee in the semi-finals in a 20-0 shutout.

The Major League boys squad clawed their way through to the final in controversial fashion from the losers' bracket. They survived a contentious extra-inning quarterfinal match that saw players ejected and a coach suspended for a game.

The boys won their way into the quarters with a 14-7 drubbing of Yulee. But the game with Oakleaf on Saturday, July 2, went to 11 innings, saw an Oakleaf player ejected and the Baker County coach forced to sit out a game.

The team lost to Oakleaf 10-7 but came back to defeat San Mateo 16-2 from the losers' bracket. Owen Register went the distance on the mound and hit a grand slam home run in the win.

The boys' rematch with Oakleaf in the finals July 5 ended with a one-run loss for Baker County 6-5.

Baker County's 9- to 10-year-old boys team was eliminated from the losers' bracket tournament at the Knabb Fields in a 6-4 loss June 29, to NOL Blue.

The 9- to 10-year-old softball tournament in San Mateo saw two Baker County teams squaring off. Baker County 1 beat Baker County 2 by a score of 17-1 June 28. The winner went on to beat Yulee 10-3 in the semi-final but lost the rematch 9-6 in the final.

Baker County's 10- to 11-year-old boys squad beat host St. Augustine 11-10 June 30. They moved up with a 10-9 win over NOL the following day before losing in the semi-finals 20-9 to Yulee.

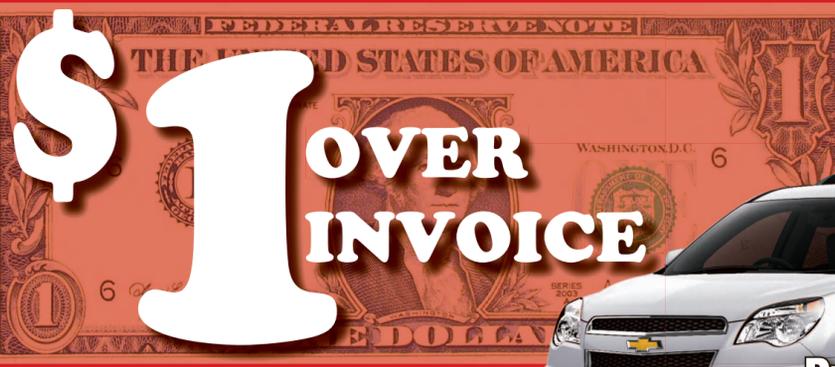
Baker County's Junior League boys team was knocked into the losers' bracket in Yulee with a 7-6 heartbreaker against San Mateo June 29.

They came back to beat St. Augustine 12-6 the following day and came out of the losers' bracket with a 4-2 win over San Mateo on July 1.

Then July 2, San Mateo upended Baker County in the final 11-5.

The junior softball team from Baker County beat Hilliard 12-2 on Saturday in San Mateo. They lost to the hosts 10-1 on July 4.

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