



Play, back to school giveaways usher students' return

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Re-entry center expected to open in October, 2012

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AUGUST 18, 2011 THURSDAY

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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Budgets still over revenues by \$2.3M

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

The county's proposed 2011-12 budget was \$3.4 million in the red three weeks ago. A week later \$900,000 in cuts had reduced the projected deficit to \$2.5 million.

Now, it's down to \$2.2 million, county commissioners were told during a third budget workshop on the afternoon of August 15. Unless additional revenues are found or more spending cuts are made, the county likely will have to dip into its reserve funds to balance the budget, officials said.

County Manager C.J. Thompson said despite recent additional cuts that had been made, including two county administrators whose positions were eliminated, projected expenditures were still \$2,270,674 more than anticipated revenues.

"All constitutional officers and county departments made cuts where we thought we could cut," Mr. Thompson said, adding that a search for other sources of revenue is continuing, including additional fees for county services.

Commission Chairman Michael Crews said he was especially pleased to see the sheriff had trimmed an additional \$120,300 from his budget, "so that was a help."

Commissioners expressed disappointment earlier this month when the sheriff's office budget, by far the largest of all constitutional offices, was only reduced \$19,988 — from \$3,617,932 to \$3,597,944. The budget proposals were sent back to all constitutional officers seeking further cuts to help narrow the gap between income and expenses.

Part of Sheriff Joey Dobson's budget revision includes a transfer of \$35,000 to help the county fund the Council on Aging. Instead of the usual \$109,000 annual donation to the council, the county commission will only have to come up with \$74,000 in the coming year. Other cuts in his budget, the sheriff said, included reducing pay raises by \$47,000 and eliminating a new van for inmate work crews.

Tax Collector Gene Harvey said his office helps the coun-

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Gold buyers chastised for not abiding by city sign ordinance

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Copter fly-overs yielding pot

Airborne surveillance leads to 264 plants at trio of locations

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The sheriff's department arrested two suspected marijuana growers and charged a third after aerial searches last week led investigators to 264 plants and other evidence at three locations in Margaretta, Sanderson and Glen St. Mary.

The largest and most sophisticated pot producing location, said Chuck Brannan, BCSO's chief investigator, was at the property owned by Nathan Eubanks Perret, 57, at 11736 Folsom Rd.

Following a routine helicopter search for marijuana on August 11, police confiscated 189 plants between 1- and 5-feet tall, about six pounds of the drug already processed, a dozen firearms, a tractor and an off-road vehicle from Mr. Perret's 34-acre tract, which includes a home, pond and barn.

Inv. Brannan spotted pot plants surrounding the residence from the air about 1:00 pm and alerted Investigator Steve Harvey and patrol units on the ground to the residence. When approached by the officers, Mr. Perret reportedly put his hands on his head and said, "You got me. I knew when I seen the helicopter I was caught," states Inv. Harvey's report.

The suspect consented to a search of the property, which was purchased in a pair of transactions in 2003 and 2004.

According to police, Mr. Perret helped deputies find the guns, marijuana packed in gallon bags within a larger bag in a garage freezer, and a partially-filled gallon bag of the drug on a kitchen counter.

The firearms included three shotguns, four rifles and five handguns including a .40-cal-

iber Glock. A search of the surrounding woods uncovered 189 plants of various sizes, the report notes.

Also located on the fenced-off property were an ir-



Nathan Perret



Cornelius Ruise Jr.

rigation system watering most of the seized plants and a wooden shed with a hidden door in the rear, behind which police found a growing room still under construc-

tion, according to Inv. Harvey's account. Inside were lights and other items, "needed for an indoor hydroponic grow operation."

Mr. Perret was arrested on charges of marijuana possession with intent to sell or manufacture, and producing marijuana, both third degree felonies.

Earlier that morning, while searching over the Margaretta area, Inv. Brannan said a black male was seen darting from a residence at 10641 Ruise Ln. to a shed about 9:00 am. During a second pass of the property, the investigator said the man, later identified as Cornelius Ruise Jr., 43, of Glen St. Mary, harvested several marijuana plants as they watched from the air and fled while simultaneously trying to tear the plants apart.

"He looked like a chicken running around with his head cut off," said Inv. Brannan.

The suspect soon reached the road with the pot plants and began walking north while still attempting to shred the evidence as the helicopter hovered overhead.

Inv. Brannan said the suspect did not look up and appeared to be ignoring the helicopter's presence. He was met by officers in the yard of the residence, where he eventually returned.

Seventeen more marijuana plants were found at the shed, according to the investigator's report. Mr. Ruise was booked at county jail on charges of producing marijuana and destroying evidence, both third degree felonies.

Searching later that afternoon in the same area of the county, investigators identified three locations being used to cultivate marijuana, though

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Pot plants seized from the Margaretta area after aerial sweeps by BCSO.

Glen man arrest for molesting minor girl

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Edward W. Pearl Jr. of Glen St. Mary was arrested August 5 at the sheriff's office for alleged sexual abuse of a girl under 16 years old.

The alleged abuse took place four to five weeks prior to the arrest. It was reported to police by a third party who had contact with the victim.



Edward Pearl Jr.

The victim and several other persons were interviewed by deputies before Mr. Pearl, 41, was taken into custody.

The investigation is ongoing, according to the sheriff's office.

Mr. Pearl was charged with a single count of lewd and lascivious behavior, a second degree felony. The crime carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Mr. Pearl's criminal record in Baker County includes a handful of traffic violations, including driving on a suspended license.

He remained in jail on \$50,000 bond August 16.

Lightning plays havoc on Friday

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

County Fire Chief Richard Dolan couldn't remember a single night in his 33-year career like the one he had August 12.

"This was the first time we had so many lightning strikes so close together — bam, bam and bam," said the chief.

One of those strikes, about 7:45 that evening, is believed to have ignited a residential fire that destroyed Stacy Conner's mobile home on John Williams Road in north Sanderson.

She said she left the home after losing power and returned to black smoke coming from the interior, according to Chief Dolan's summary. When Ms. Conner checked inside she found the kitchen and living room in flames.

Eight units, including two engines and two tanker trucks, plus 10 fire and rescue personnel, responded to the scene and extinguished the fire.

All the units returned to ser-

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Training to guard school crossings

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

There are 13 pedestrian cross walks manned near Baker County's public schools and it takes a dedicated contingent of people to ensure each of them are safe to cross.

Enter the crossing guards, those folks in the neon yellow vests and bright orange gloves that are such a familiar sight on local streets when school is in session.

"These folks take this very seriously," said Maj. Gerald Gonzalez, operations chief of the sheriff's office. "They are determined not to let anything happen that might endanger the safety of the kids."

Safety is the primary agenda of the guards, who each year train to introduce or re-acquaint them with the proce-

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Sergeant Buck Dyal demonstrates stopping traffic.

PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

How should county offices close their \$2.5 million budget deficit?

32.1% More employee layoffs

18.9% Take it from reserves

15.1% Raise taxes, fees

26.4% All of the above

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\$2.3M budget deficit remains

From page 1
 ty by returning a portion of his department's revenues to the county commission every year. According to a report he presented to the board, his budget has only increased 6 percent in the past five years and includes a \$130,000 projected allocation to the county in 2012.

Property Appraiser Tim Sweat, who did not attend this week's meeting, protested last week over the report that elected officers only initially reduced budgets 1 percent.

Mr. Sweat says his proposed \$559,300 budget for the coming year reflects a 5.3 percent drop resulting for the elimination of a part time field position.

In another move to reduce expenditures, commissioners agreed to sharply reduce the amount of money the county donates to several non-profit agencies and voted to cut the entire \$10,000 that had been earmarked for the Community Action Agency, a Jacksonville-based corporation with an office in Baker County that provides assistance to low-income families.

"They're a big company," Commissioner Jimmy Anderson said. "The county needs \$10,000 more than they do. We need to prioritize."

Michael Crews said he was satisfied that the board had done all it could do to cut expenses and if additional fees must be imposed on services such as solid waste disposal and emergency medical

services [EMS] to help balance the budget, so be it.

"We did our part," he said. Commissioner Gordon Crews agreed, saying, "I think we've done our due diligence."

Commissioners reluctantly conceded that they probably will have to dip into the county's reserve, or "rainy day," fund to make up for the revenue shortfall. However, they cautioned against assuming that the fund, which presently totals about \$8.2 million, will always be there.

"You can only go to the well so many times," Gordon Crews said, adding that the reserve fund might be available next year to help bolster revenues again but at some point the fund will dry up.

"I think we still have some cuts that could be made, \$1,000 here, \$1,000 there," he said. "But not \$2 million."

Gordon Crews said that when he becomes chairman next year his message to department heads and constitutional officers will be simple: "Don't bring me a budget above what we have (available in revenue) to spend because the savings account (reserve fund) is not there."

Commissioner Mark Hartley said he expects department heads to "look at every penny they spend" and make sure that each expenditure is necessary.

Commissioner Adam Giddens, one of two new commissioners elected last year, said he didn't like it but agreed that the board appeared to have no choice this year but to "dip into savings" to balance the budget.

Mr. Anderson, also elected last year, said he had read the budget proposals numerous times and had to agree that the reserve fund

will have to make up the revenue shortfall.

"But we don't need to be in this position next year," he said.

To help ensure that the board doesn't face the same problem a year from now, Mr. Anderson said fees should be increased for EMS and solid waste disposal, both of which he said "are costing a lot more than they're bringing in."

A fourth budget workshop was tentatively scheduled for 4:00 pm on August 23 to finalize the spending package before it goes to the board for a public hearing on September 8. Final budget approval is set for September 15.

The 2011-12 budget, which goes into effect on October 1, is based on the same property tax, or millage, rate as last year: 7.1495 mills. One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable prop-

erty value.

The tax bill on a home with an assessed value of \$125,000, after deducting the \$50,000 homestead exemption, would be about \$536 for county government services, excluding levies by the school district, water manage-

ment district and any other taxing authorities.

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Fly-overs yield pot

From page 1
 ownership of the plants could not be determined.

Twenty-two plants were seized from the woods about a half-mile west of Cow Pen Road and north of US 90. Ten plants were found behind a junk yard at 10302 Gredford Williams Rd. and nine more about 6-feet tall were uncovered in heavy brush on the property line adjacent to 10168 Ora Ruise Rd.

• Yet another group of marijuana plants were located just north of the Glen St. Mary town limits during a helicopter sweep the morning of August 8.

Investigators were directed to an enclosed pen at the rear of a shed at 11109 Bradley Trail, the address of David Henry Bradley's 1-acre homesteaded property. There they found 11 pot plants growing in 5-gallon buckets.

Six more plants being dried were recovered from the shed.

Mr. Bradley met with investigators at the sheriff's office the following day and admitted he grew marijuana for his personal use, but not to sell, states Inv. Harvey's report. Mr. Bradley was charged with producing marijuana.

• The fly-overs last week followed a similar operation last month in the area of CR 127 and CR 122 in Taylor, where police found 65 plants at the residence of Thomas (Tommy) Fish, 52.

Maj. Brannan spotted a single plant growing in a garden at 21421 CR 127 and later several more plants among tomato bushes, as well as a white male on the porch.

The officer landed in the helicopter, approached the residence and found Mr. Fish, who stated the pot plants belonged to his recently deceased son, Brandon Fish.

The son was shot and killed June 18.

Mr. Fish directed the deputies to 65 marijuana plants and several seedling plants in trays under a large oak tree in the front yard.

Three days later, the suspect called the sheriff's department to notify it that he found more small plants and destroyed them.

Mr. Fish is charged with a single count of producing marijuana.

The sheriff's office received assistance from the DEA and Florida Department of Agriculture law enforcement during the investigation. The helicopters were piloted by the Florida National Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, or FWC.

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COMMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome, but must contain the signature of the writer, a telephone number and city of residence. Letters must reflect opinions and statements on issues of current interest to the general public.

The newspaper reserves the right to reject any material which in the newspaper's judgement does not meet standards of publication.

CONTACT US

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We are available online at www.bakercountypress.com



----- LETTER TO THE EDITOR -----

Discipline at the schools

Dear Editor:

I often read in *The Press* about students, some as young as 13, getting arrested at school. Many of the arrests are for fighting, disrupting class or refusing to calm down. This seems to have become a norm across the state.

Florida removed almost all of the power from the schools to discipline children as they see fit. An example of this is removal of paddling; it leaves the task of discipline up to the local police force.

One can only imagine how traumatic it is for a teenage child having a pair of handcuffs slapped on, then being placed in the back seat of a patrol car. It is traumatic and the arrest remains on their record; they are then part of the justice system.

When I attended Westside Elementary in the 1970s and students got into fights or disrupted class they were sent to the principal and paddled. The next time they thought about misbehaving they vividly remembered the sting of the "board of education."

It's time for society to re-think how it deals with misbehaving children in its schools. Police should be called in only extreme cases. Wouldn't this be the best use of taxpayer money, versus taking more money from the schools?

Damon Agostino
Bushnell, FL

Same dysfunctional bickering before the Obama birthday gala

I read the other day that it was the President's birthday. He's 50 and I neglected to bake a cake.

I've watched Obama the three years he's been President and here's what I've decided. Being president is a reverse Fountain of Youth. It is a job that is guaranteed to make you look your age if not older.

Bill Clinton aged about 80 years during his two terms. He started out boyish and ended up rail thin and with snow-white hair. Granted he was living with Hillary Clinton at the time, which would age anyone.

Even George Bush, who was probably the most relaxed president in history, got to look a little twitchy by the end.

President Obama looks miserable. His hair is going grey, he never smiles and if it is possible he is even thinner than candidate Obama.

I have this sneaking suspicion that before he goes to bed every night, Senator John McCain thanks God he lost the election. If this is what Obama looks like after three years, McCain would have been mistaken for Rip Van Winkle.

His party did not go off without some controversy, however. Tea Party darling Michele Bachmann introduced a bill in Congress requiring the president submit a valid birth certificate proving that he was actually born.

Press secretary Jay Carney responded by saying that it was obvious that the President was born since he "is walking around and talking."

Bachmann quipped that she believes that the President "is actually an alien ... or from Kenya ... or a Kenyan Alien and he should prove he ... isn't."

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin did not have problems with the party because Paul Revere stopped for a piece of birthday cake on his famous ride where he warned the British that the Americans were coming.

Congressional Republicans objected on principle to the birthday and there was considerable debate about whether to even wish Obama a happy birthday or sing to the president.

Bachmann agreed to sing but only to *Belong in a Zoo* lyrics. At one point House Democrats suggested a cake, but 60 Minutes discovered that the baking of the presidential cake had been outsourced to a bakery in Bangalore. An irate Senator Mitch McConnell played a phone message from the bakery.

"Please Press 1 for chocolate, Press 2 for vanilla, Press 3 for red velvet ..."

The president worried that if

the debate over the birthday celebration continued, Congress and the White House would not be able to reach a compromise before the August 4 birthday deadline and the president would have to remain 49 for another year.

Senator John Boehner countered that although he did not agree that the President deserved a birthday, if "the White House will work with me we should be able to hammer out a happy birthday before the deadline."

Boehner told Fox News that if a compromise was not reached before the deadline he worried that Party City would stop extending credit to the government and that future birthday celebrations could cost "trillions of dollars."

Gov. Rick Perry of Texas claimed that if he was elected president, his birthdays would be held without costing the public a single dime. Upon further investigation, CBS News discovered that Perry had set up a soft-money PAC fundraiser and that Exxon Mobil and BP had already donated \$56 million to his 2012 birthday celebration.

Fox News Anchor Shepard Smith complained that "with the country on the brink of a major recession, the president insisting on spending this much time deciding whether to have rocky road, butter brickle or mint chocolate chip is a demonstration of his insensitivity to the plight of the country."

Obama snapped back and stated that the party would employ over 100 hard-working Americans including Chuckles the Clown of Moline, Illinois and the Karaoke duo of Marge and Pepper of Davenport, Iowa.

Tea Party supporter Senator Rand Paul said that the use of the duo from Davenport was a political move since Iowa was the first primary in the run for re-election.

The party finally did go off without a hitch when a last minute deal was brokered by Boehner, McConnell and Vice-president Joe Biden when the president agreed to add a balloon artist from Boehner's home district of Dayton, Ohio and a dancer from McConnell's home state of Kentucky that would pop out of the cake waving the yellow and red *Don't Tread on Me* flag so popular with Tea Partiers.

Spokesmen from both parties hailed the birthday compromise as a watershed moment in the history of partying.

There are worries, however, that the whole dismal affair might be repeated in four months when the President has to choose the national Christmas tree.

Ailing rescue units 'just the tip'

Last week one of the county's ambulances, while transporting a patient, had mechanical problems that prompted rescue personnel to call for a backup unit because the ambulance was "limping in," as EMS director David Richardson put it this week.

That's what they call it when the ambulance won't accelerate above 15 mph because it could cause engine damage.

"It's another one of those computer things," said Mr. Richardson.

I had just mentioned what mechanics have been telling me for more than year about my SUV — that the sensor on the rear differential was on the fritz and it would be a cool \$80 just to "diagnose" the bug.

I always smile and say, "That's alright. I'll just ignore the warning light on my dash board."

The county can't be so careless, particularly with all those ambulance-chasing trial lawyers out there.

The county commission did recently approved the purchase of two new ambulances for the EMS department. But they're not expected to arrive until mid-November.

Mr. Richardson said he downgraded some of the bells and whistles to keep the units under budget. He described the shedding of some "niceties" like the ambulances' multiplex electrical system, which basically controls

everything on the truck from the AC to the oxygen to the lights. The multiplex would've been nice, he said, but also expensive to repair.

The transport ambulance that slowed to 15 mph in Baldwin last week while hauling a patient from Macclenny to Jacksonville doesn't appear to be an easy fix, either.

That was the afternoon of August 10. The ambulance was taken in for repairs, which apparently didn't stick, because the same malfunction happened again on August 16.

"It's a problem," said Mr. Richardson. "Hopefully we can get it back on the road pretty soon."

The unit, which the county recently sunk \$2,000 into to fix the air conditioning, has more than 200,000 miles. It serves as a back up unit to two so-called 9-1-1 units that respond to emergencies. When three calls arrive in at the same time, the transport truck comes to the rescue.

At least it used to. The transport unit was purchased in 2008 with grant money, not local property taxes. It actually runs a surplus, say county officials, generating more revenue than it costs to run the unit. It helps offset a portion of the losses the EMS department as a whole experiences each year.

The rest is subsidized by the county's general fund, which gets the lions share of its cash from

property taxes.

Property assessments are a little different. They're flat fees and don't fluctuate with changes in the value of one's property.

The county has fees that help fund the solid waste and fire departments, but they don't cover the cost of operating the dump sites or keeping a full-time fire chief and his cadre of dedicated volunteers responding to emergencies.

Again, the general fund makes up the shortfall.

Sheriff's office services — essentially law enforcement and housing costs for local inmates — are also not fully funded by the local property taxes dedicated to those ends.

The county's property tax, or millage, rate is actually the total of three millage rates for general revenue, the health department and the sheriff's office. And guess which one makes up the sheriff's office deficit?

Good of general fund.

With the exception of some grant monies, sales tax disbursements and gas taxes (which fund county road projects), general revenue accounts for the bulk of the county's spending, as it should.

But what the county has is a patch-work funding model that depends on the general fund to offset shortfalls everywhere else. And when the general fund runs

out, as it's expected to again this year, it appears the county commission is resigned to making up the deficit with reserves. Again.

As commissioners said this year and last, you can only go to the well so many times before it's dry. And it's not as though the county's spending is extravagant.

There's the ailing ambulance. Garbage disposal and other municipal services like road improvements are provided on shoestring budgets. There are more local inmates than the tax levies can pay to house.

I would hazard to say the Great Recession didn't cause these issues, but rather exacerbated structural weaknesses in the current system.

Without new revenue or more cuts in the limited services now provided, the county will soon find itself without a rainy day fund. The board's view that a new fee for EMS and higher fee for solid waste is a good start.

Property owners are picking it up the bill anyway through the general fund, but some more so than others.

Property tax exemptions for homesteads, agricultural use and other circumstances skew the burden.

Any move to make the system more fair and more fiscally sound should be welcomed.



Facebook fans

'What you had to say ...'

The Baker County Commission is eyeing a more than \$2 million budget deficit for the 2011-12 fiscal year. We asked our Facebook fans for their thoughts or suggestions on a solution August 15. Here's what they had to say ...

Marilyn Penrod:

"Let our officials vote themselves a pay cut. The citizens of Baker are tightening their wallets everyday to balance their budgets. Let our officials do the same."

Dustin Jackson:

"That won't happen."

Marilyn Penrod:

"We can still hope."

Jason Randall:

"Those two \$30,000 jobs they cut last week didn't do the trick? Who saw that coming? Funny how unemployment never trickles up."

Joshua Forth:

"It's who you know that keeps your job in this town. That goes for the same at the state hospital too!"

Lindsay Jaseonek:

"Pretend it's not there! Spend more! Like the rest of the country! #beingsarcastic"

Lyon Marc:

"Build a new county administration building ..."

Joshua Forth:

"Pay freeze for the next 20 years until things get better. They will just make up more bull crap taxes. We will have to pay to cover the cost."

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS



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Publisher

James C. McGauley - editor@bakercountypress.com

MANAGING EDITOR - Joel Addington - reporter@bakercountypress.com

ADVERTISING/PRODUCTION - Jessica Prevatt - advertising@bakercountypress.com

FEATURES - Kelley Lannigan - features@bakercountypress.com

FEATURES/COMMENT/SPORTS - Robert Gerard

BUSINESS MANAGER - Karin Thomas - kthomas@bakercountypress.com

CLASSIFIEDS & TYPESETTING - Debbie Hansen - classifieds@bakercountypress.com

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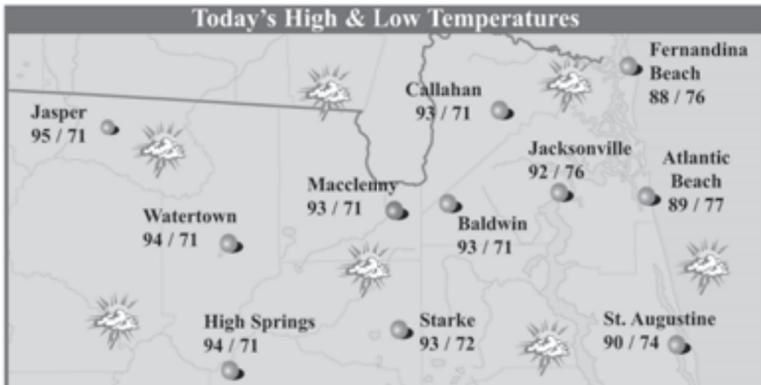
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The Baker County Press Weather

Aug. 18, 2011

Seven Day Forecast	
	Thursday Scat'd T-storms High: 93 Low: 71
	Friday Scat'd T-storms High: 93 Low: 70
	Saturday Scat'd T-storms High: 94 Low: 71
	Sunday Scat'd T-storms High: 94 Low: 72
	Monday Scat'd T-storms High: 93 Low: 72
	Tuesday Isolated T-storms High: 96 Low: 74
	Wednesday Isolated T-storms High: 95 Low: 74



Sun/Moon Chart This Week				
Last	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	First
8/21	Thursday	6:57 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	9/4
	Friday	6:57 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	
	Saturday	6:58 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	
	Sunday	6:59 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	
	Monday	6:59 a.m.	8:03 p.m.	Full 9/12
	Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	8:02 p.m.	
	Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	

Last Week's Local Almanac				
Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 8/9	93	75	92/72	0.04"
Wed, 8/10	93	68	92/72	0.00"
Thu, 8/11	97	75	92/72	0.00"
Fri, 8/12	99	72	92/72	0.19"
Sat, 8/13	95	70	92/72	0.45"
Sun, 8/14	93	70	92/72	0.07"
Mon, 8/15	95	75	92/72	0.00"

Precipitation0.75"
 Normal precipitation1.57"
 Departure from normal-0.82"
 Average temperature83.6°
 Average normal temperature ...82.0°
 Departure from normal+1.6°
 Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

St. Mary's River Levels			Hunting/Fishing Times		
	Now	Change	Peak Times		
Moniac, GA	4.31 ft.	-0.01 ft.	Day	AM	PM
Macclenny	1.93 ft.	+0.27 ft.	Thu	1:59-3:59	2:29-4:29
Weather History			Fri	2:42-4:42	3:12-5:12
Aug. 18, 1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. Just 13 people were killed, but 1800 others were injured.			Sat	3:27-5:27	3:57-5:57
			Sun	4:14-6:14	4:44-6:44
			Mon	5:04-7:04	5:34-7:34
			Tue	5:56-7:56	6:26-8:26
			Wed	6:49-8:49	7:19-9:19

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Crossing guards: training class

From page 1

dures for directing both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through school zones.

Several new guards joined the ranks this year bringing the group to nine full time guards and one substitute.

Sgt. Thomas (Buck) Dyal, head of community services at BCSO, conducts the training each summer just before the start of the school year.

Guards begin their training with evaluation testing to identify areas of knowledge that need specific attention.

Returning guards get a two-hour refresher course, new ones get the full eight-hour introductory class of four hours in the classroom and four hours practical (outside) training.

During a new guard training, veteran guards pitch in and give valuable advice and information.

Training was originally handled by the school district, which still funds training, uniforms and salaries.

Some of the skills taught include left-right-left traffic scanning, making eye contact with approaching motorists, determining the best position to call traffic to a stop, their position

in the intersection when directing students to cross, when not to direct students to cross, hand signals, the proper way to alert traffic and pedestrians, using a whistle and verbal signals.

They also examine common crash scenarios — the situations in which pedestrians are most likely to be in danger of being struck by a vehicle.

After training the main things a crossing guard always keeps in the forefront of his or her mind are:

- Do not assume all cars will stop.
- Do not assume all cars will remain stopped.
- Remain alert.

New guards will work their first two weeks in tandem with experienced ones before going it solo.

"This job involves a lot of responsibility," said Sgt. Dyal. "When school is in session, the guards have to be out there no matter what. In the rain, freezing wind, intense heat — any conditions."

Because of staggered bus schedules, they usually work four shifts daily, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, sometimes at different locations.

Break time generally is spent in a semi-circle of folding chairs next to the Kangaroo gas station on 6th Street.

Guards cannot penalize students for crossing at unauthorized places but they do try to speak with students about it if they have the opportunity.

"What they tell them is basically they can't do everything in their power to protect them if they aren't using the crosswalks. They try to get the students to work with them and it's usually successful," said Maj. Gonzalez.

Guards also develop relationships with students, learning their first names and developing a sense about when they will arrive at their crosswalk.

"They consider all the students 'their kids' and their safety is the most important thing. In fact, for the crossing guards, it's the only thing," said Sgt. Dyal.

Seasoned crossing guards say the single biggest challenge is that drivers and pedestrians are often not paying attention.

"That puts the responsibility back on us," said one, "You have to be alert to that at all times."

Lightning: havoc

From page 1

vice by 9:30 pm.

The 1700-square-foot residence was a total loss, Chief Dolan said, but no damage estimate was listed in the report.

Lighting that night also sparked five brush fires in quick succession in the Sanderson area and the Osceola National Forest.

Chief Dolan said two occurred

near Wire Mill Road totaling nearly three acres, two more, though smaller, erupted near CR 250 and 250A, and a third was located near Richardson Road south of Sanderson.

"It was popping all over the place," said the chief.

Three vehicle accidents rounded out the night's 15 calls, most of which took place between 5:15 pm and midnight.

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Alabama man drunk, walking on I-10

An Alabama man who left his pickup truck running and was walking in the travel lane of Interstate 10 about midnight on August 13 was arrested for disorderly intoxication.

Deputy Brandon Kiser said he responded to a location east of Macclenny following a report that a semi-truck nearly struck a white male pedestrian in one of the westbound lanes.

A canvas of the area turned up a 2003 Chevrolet S-10 pickup parked in the vicinity off the westbound lanes with its engine running. Shortly after, the deputy said he spotted a man matching the earlier description walking eastbound.

He was identified as Steven Rider, 23, of Minette, AL, the same name as on the vehicle registration. Deputy Kiser said Mr. Rider smelled of alcohol and claimed he was on "highway 49 in Jacksonville."

In other recent arrests:

• Crystal Pastrana, 18, of Jacksonville was booked at county jail for misdemeanor possession of marijuana and a glass smoking pipe, both found in a vehicle she was riding in about 11:30 pm on August 14.

Deputy Robert Simpkins said he was on foot patrol at the Macclenny Park that night when he smelled marijuana smoke near the west parking area. He returned to his patrol car and drove back to the area, and said he had to stop to avoid a collision with a 1999 Honda backing out of the

parking area.

It was driven by a 17-year-old female from Macclenny who was cited for not having a license. The officer noted the vehicle interior smelled of marijuana smoke, and in a subsequent search found the pipe near a passenger seat and a small amount of pot in a container that was in Ms. Pastrana's pocket.

The owner of the vehicle, Lana Gregg, 18, of St. Johns, FL, was given a warning ticket for having an expired license sticker.

• Deputy Steven Smith arrested Dillion Hartsfield, 18, of Macclenny for misdemeanor possession after he spotted the subject parked in the rear of the abandoned Macclenny Products on South 6th St. about 4:00 am on August 14.

The officer said he detected the odor of marijuana when ques-

tioning the driver, who admitted to smoking it. A hollowed cigar with marijuana stuffed inside and residue were found in and near the vehicle.

• Jeremiah Brooks, 27, of Sanderson was arrested about noon on August 8 for driving on a license suspended three times.

Deputy Rodney Driggers stopped the southbound 1996 Honda driven by the suspect for speeding and having loud music emanating from it on CR 127 in north Sanderson. A computer check revealed the suspensions for drunk driving and failure to pay fines, and that Mr. Brooks' license expired in 2007.

He was ticketed for going 60 mph in a 35 mph zone.

• Shawn Eiserman, 23, of Sanderson was arrested the evening of August 13 for driving with two prior license suspensions.

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MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Illegal signs still sprout in city

Sign shop owner levels protest; tougher fines seen

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Illegal business signs in Macclenny are coming under intense scrutiny by city officials who are calling for tougher penalties on violators who put up signs without permits or that violate other provisions of the city's sign ordinance.

The issue came up for discussion during the Macclenny City Commission meeting the evening of August 9 when the owner of a sign company complained about illegal signs at a new business on South 6th Street.

Ellen Evans, owner of Signs and Designs by Ellen, said it's unfair to her and other local sign company owners for outfits from other counties to come to Baker County and put up illegal signs without obtaining the required permits from the city.

"Outside companies come in and just throw something up and then they're gone," she said. "It puts myself and other sign companies at a huge disadvantage."

She said she adheres to the sign ordinance requirements, including getting permits and making signs that comply with the rules in terms of their size and structure, whereas many "fly by night" companies do not.

She specifically mentioned a new business that opened recently in a strip center on Sixth Street just south of Lowder. The business buys gold and has put up numerous signs on the building and on a pickup truck containing a mannequin holding a red flag in one hand and a tall sign in the other hand that reads: "We Buy Gold."

"You want to see tacky, go look at this place," Ms. Evans told commissioners. "This is advertising gone crazy. Windows are completely covered with lettering, there's an illegal sandwich board there and a dummy standing in a pickup truck."

She said she had learned that the signs were made by a company in Jacksonville that is "very disreputable and has a horrible rep-



The signs above prompted complaints to city commissioners August 9.

PHOTO BY MIKE ANDERSON

utation in the sign business." She said she checked with the city's code enforcement officer, Joy Chapman, and discovered that no permit had been obtained for any of the signs, some of which are in violation of the ordinance in other ways.

"We're just asking for some fairness here," she said. "Somehow these laws have to be enforced or they're useless."

Ms. Evans said she has a customer just a few doors down in the same strip center who has been waiting over a month for a new sign. She said she has been following the legal, appropriate steps to obtaining the building owner's approval and a city permit before proceeding with installation of the new sign.

Yet, she said, this new business "came in and threw up a lot of signage overnight" without the building owner's knowledge or permission.

When she contacted someone at the gold dealing business she "was informed that they paid \$350 for a permit they never got," even though the city only charges \$45 for a permit, Ms. Evans said.

Roger Yarborough, assistant city manager and head of the building department, acknowledged that a lot of signs in town do not

comply with the city ordinance.

"We have a lot of trouble with fly by nights moving in on a weekend and putting these things (signs) up," he said.

Commissioners directed City Manager Gerald Dopson and City Attorney Frank Maloney to research the ordinance and come up with a recommendation to strengthen its enforceability and possibly increase the monetary penalties for violations.

"We need to take more quick and effective action against these violators," the city manager said.

The ordinance provides for penalties of \$25 to \$100 per day for each day a violation exists, depending upon the specific type of violation, according to Mr. Maloney, who said the dummy, the pickup truck and the two "wind flags" flapping in the back of the truck in front of the gold dealer's business definitely violate the city's ordinance.

Ms. Evans urged the city to order the illegal signs removed immediately and impose a significant penalty.

"If you hit people where it hurts they pay attention," she said.

Less than 24 hours after the meeting, much of the signage at the new gold buying business had disappeared. Ms. Chapman met with the store owners early the morning of August 10, explaining which signs were legal and which were not.

In other business, city commissioners:

- Issued a notice of condemnation on a mobile home at 55 Barber Road owned by Kelvin Manning. Code Enforcement Officer Joy Chapman said the owner had been cited for numerous violations and had made no attempt to make any repairs.

Among the structural problems cited were roof leaks, rotten flooring, faulty electrical wiring, faulty plumbing and other defects. The owner will still have 30 days to pull permits to make the necessary repairs before the condemnation proceeds.

Suspects on tape in burglary attempt

Police have some clues, including surveillance videos, that might lead to suspects who attempted to break into the Hole in the Wall Antique and Gun store on South 4th in Macclenny overnight on August 10.

Owner Bill Krall arrived that morning to find evidence that an attempt was made to pry open the front door. Deputy Daryl Mobley said evidence at the scene suggested the suspects climbed a perimeter fence onto a container, then used a pry bar found on the ground near the fence in the entry attempt.

Fingerprints and footprints were lifted from the area, and a video depicts two black males dressed in black at the front door just after midnight. One has lengthy hair and the other had on a white cap.

Deputy Mobley's report indicates a third male is seen standing near the northeast corner of the fence.

Police also checked a surveillance video at Stone Transport next door, and said it contained the image of four black males walking on nearby Florida Ave. just before midnight.

Nothing was reported taken, and damage was confined to the door and fixtures.

In other thefts, James and Jane Kemp returned to their residence August 9 after an absence of over one month to find it had been looted of jewelry, pain medication and a nail gun. The latter item was in the garage and valued at \$300; no value was attached to the other property.

Sheriff's investigator Steve Harvey said entry was through a rear porch screen. The house off Odis Yarborough Rd. had been unoccupied since July 1.

- Quentina Ross returned to her South 9th St. residence in Macclenny after an overnight absence to find a game console, wallet and digital camera missing. She told Deputy Brandon Kiser the doors were unsecured.

- In a vandalism case, Rachel Collingwood of Macclenny gave Deputy Jason Bryan the name of a suspect she believes is responsible for breaking the windshield on her Chevrolet overnight on August 13. It was parked at her residence on South 9th at the time.

Items were taken from the trunk and strewn on a nearby road surface.

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Threatens estranged wife with kitchen knife

Police arrested a Glen St. Mary man who allegedly forced his way into his estranged wife's residence in Macclenny early on August 12, grabbed two knives from the kitchen and held one of them to her throat, threatening to kill her.

Johnny Padgett, 31, was found by two deputies back in the residence of Heather Padgett, 25, shortly after she called police when he fled about 2:00 am. Minutes earlier, Mrs. Padgett told Deputies Chris Walker and Robert Aberly he had forced his way into a rear door and chased her into a bedroom armed with the knives. She broke free of him and ran out the front door with her husband in pursuit, throwing the knives at her.

He caught her outside the front door and placed one of the knives to her throat before she broke free again.

Mr. Padgett was arrested after briefly refusing to come out of a bedroom where he fled when confronted by the officers in a hallway after he returned. Deputy Walker described him as "very intoxicated."

Police retrieved one of the knives from a bedroom dresser, the other from the living room floor. Mr. Padgett was booked at county jail for aggravated assault with a weapon. The Department of Children and Families was notified because the couple's five children, ages infant to seven, were at the residence.

In other domestic incidents the past week:

- Willie Winton, 50, of Macclenny was charged with aggravated assault with a weapon for allegedly assaulting his live-in girlfriend during an argument the morning of August 12 at their residence on Grissholm St.

Shirley Ruise, 46, told Deputy Koty Crews her boyfriend swung a fixed-blade knife at her while threatening her about 8:30, then left the house only to return a short time later and leave again with unspecified property belonging to her.

The accused was gone when Deputy Crews arrived, but returned about two hours later when he was arrested. Two knives were taken from him.

- Deputy Tony Norman arrested George Wilkinson, 39, about

midnight on August 9 for allegedly grabbing live-in girlfriend Carmie McInarnay, 31, and throwing her to the ground. The impact caused the girlfriend's prosthetic leg to detach.

The victim said she and Mr. Wilkinson argued at their Faye Rd. residence north of Macclenny over her daughter's request for keys to a vehicle. The boyfriend was arrested for domestic battery.

- A similar charge was filed against a south Macclenny man the evening of August 8 after he wounded his brother with either a machete or baseball bat during a fight outside their residence at Rhoden's Trailer Park about 10:30.

William Charles, 48, was treat-

ed at Fraser Hospital for a head laceration inflicted by his brother Richard, 47, and both were charged with disorderly conduct. DCF was called because of the presence of several children, including the victim's two daughters. Both combatants admitted to Deputy Crews they were intoxicated.

- Robert Combs Jr., 29, of Macclenny was arrested the afternoon of August 10 for violating a domestic violence protective order when he telephoned and text messaged his estranged wife Melissa, 30.

Deputy Jacob Satterwhite responded to a call from the Family Crisis Center on South 8th St., which had been in contact with Mrs. Combs, and later while be-

ing interviewed by Deputy Daryl Mobley, the accused called again. He was questioned at his parents' north Macclenny home and admitted to making contact with his wife.

Mrs. Combs also admitted to initiating contact with her husband.

- Deputy Brandon Kiser arrested Crystal Thomas, 26, late on August 13 after she refused to exit her residence on Lane Ave. near Sanderson and refused to answer the officer's queries about her behavior.

The officer was called to the address just before midnight and met by Shawn Thomas, 37, who said his wife was angry after an argument and inside ransacking their residence and slashing his clothing with a knife.



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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Impact fee moratorium Renew for transportation portion

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

New residential or commercial developments in Baker County in the next 12 months will not have a transportation impact fee added to their price. County commissioners voted on August 15 to extend a moratorium for a second year on the assessment and collection of the fees.

The fee waiver, which is intended to serve as an incentive to attract new residential and commercial development, will be in effect until August 15, 2012.

Meanwhile, the issue of growth and its impact on county services and infrastructures will be re-examined in a study recommended by County Manager C.J. Thompson to "evaluate a new approach to impact fees."

"The crux of the issue is that growth has a cost associated with it," Mr. Thompson said, adding that what the county must determine is who pays, how much they should pay, and how the money will be spent.

Commissioners agreed that growth creates additional burdens on all county services and infrastructures and, therefore, the county should have greater flexibility in allocating impact fee funds beyond transportation improvements.

Or, as Commissioner Gordon Crews said, "a redistribution of where we spend the funds."

However, virtually no new growth has occurred in the past few years because of the economic recession, which is why the moratorium was enacted "to stimulate Baker County's growth-dependent industries."

The moratorium does not apply to impact fees collected for school district improvements to accommodate population growth.

Michael Crews, the commission's chairman, previously stated his belief that the issue of im-

pact fees on growth needs to be re-examined. He reiterated that view before commissioners voted unanimously to continue the moratorium.

"We need to do something to fix it," he said, adding that the transportation impact fee is not assessed fairly in that long-time residents who build or buy a new home in Baker County are required to pay the fee as if they had just moved to the county.

People moving within the county, the chairman said, should "not get hit with an impact fee."

Danny Norton, a long-time Baker County resident frequently in attendance at county commission meetings, said he couldn't agree more.

Mr. Norton told commissioners that he built a new home in Baker County last year and was assessed an impact fee even though he has lived in Baker County for 35 years and has no children in the public schools.

The county's impact fee ordinance, which was enacted in 2005, provides for a \$2,592 fee on every new home erected in the county. Impact fees on commercial developments vary based on the permit fee.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved a mitigation agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District that will allow the county to open the new Glen Nursery Road, which was built south of Interstate 10 in 2009 but was not allowed to open because of the presence of 0.3 acres of wetlands in the 13-acre project area.

Under the terms of the agreement the county will dedicate about 21 acres at the nearly 1,700-acre St. Mary's Shoals Park northwest of Glen St. Mary, including roughly 18.5 acres of wet-

lands, as mitigation for the disturbed wetlands.

"The sooner we do this the sooner we can get the road open," the county manager said. "I think it's a good solution."

- Received a report from the architect overseeing revised plans for the county's new 9,800 square foot administration building. Erik Kasper told commissioners that all the engineering work will be completed by the end of this month and construction permits can be obtained to get the project started.

- Awarded a \$18,058 contract to KC Petroleum for the removal of a 6,000-gallon underground fuel storage tank that was abandoned adjacent to the former county jail north of the courthouse.

KC was one of nine bidders for the job, including a \$17,465 proposal from Fueling Components. But the county manager recommended KC get the contract because it included the cost to remove an existing concrete island where gas pumps once were located, whereas the bid from Fueling Components did not.

- Approved a new employee longevity award policy providing a \$2,000 pay raise for employees who complete 20 years of service with the county, whether consecutively or cumulatively. The new policy supersedes a policy that officials said was not clear as to whether the award should be a one-time bonus or a salary increase.

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Legal Notices

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Baker County District School Board will hold the following **PUBLIC HEARING** on **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**, at the **District School Board Room** located at **270 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.**

Approval of the following:
2011-2012 Student Progression Plan
2011-2012 Code of Student Conduct

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

The documents will be available for preview at the Superintendent's Office located at 270 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida beginning Wednesday, August 10, 2011 (8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.).

Sherrie Raulerson
Superintendent of Schools
8/11-9/1

NOTICE

New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) is requesting Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualification for the following:

RFQ # 11-01 Professional Accounting and Auditing Services
RFQ # 11-02 Professional Independent Financial Consulting Services

NRSWA is located 2.5 miles north of Raiford, FL on State Road 121 in Union County, Florida. Proposal packages can be picked up at the New River Regional Landfill located at 24276 NE 157th St., Raiford, FL 32083 beginning Thursday, August 18, 2011. NRSWA invites professional firms to submit letters of interest and qualification statements for providing services to the Association. Contact New River Regional Landfill at 386-431-1000, or by email to lgreene@nrswa.org to request a copy of the Request for Qualifications. Be advised that NRSWA has a local vendor preference policy. The DEADLINE for submittal in response to the above RFQ is September 1, 2011, 12:00 p.m. (noon).
8/25 - 9/01

NOTICE

Call for Request for Proposals (RFP)

New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) is requesting proposals for the following services and technical support.

1. RFP # 11-01 Scheduled Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Services
2. RFP # 11-02 Computer Maintenance and Technical Services
3. RFP # 11-03 Heavy to Light Equipment Repair and Maintenance Services
4. RFP # 11-04 Heating and Air Conditioning Services
5. RFP # 11-05 Pest Control Services
6. RFP # 11-06 Office Cleaning Services
7. RFP # 11-07 Office Security Alarm Systems: Monitoring and Service

NRSWA is located 2.5 miles north of Raiford, Florida on State Road 121 in Union County, Florida. Proposal packages and information can be picked up beginning Thursday, August 18, 2011, at the New River Regional Landfill located at 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, FL 32083 or requested by email to lgreene@nrswa.org. All proposals must be submitted on the Proposal Form provided. Completed proposals are to be mailed to the New River Solid Waste Association, P.O. Box 647, Raiford, Florida 32083-0647 or delivered to the NRSWA Administration Office. After the RFP opening, the proposals will be examined for completeness and preserved in the custody of the Executive Director. New River Solid Waste Association reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or a portion thereof for any reason. Any proposals received after the specified time and date will not be considered. Be advised that NRSWA has a local vendor preference policy. For additional information contact Lydia Greene at NRSWA, 386-431-1000. The DEADLINE for submittal in response to the above RFPs is September 1, 2011, 12:00 p.m. (noon).
8/18-8/25

NEW RIVER LANDFILL BOARD

Nearing pact on methane

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

After nearly nine months of negotiations, the New River landfill is on the cusp of signing a contract with a California-based landfill gas company that could generate millions of dollars for the publicly-owned facility during the next decade and a half.

Alan Janecek, president of Janecek & Associates of Costa Mesa, plans to construct a processing plant on one acre at the Raiford landfill to strip carbon dioxide from gas generated by the landfill, which today is captured and flared.

The resulting gas is expected to be largely highly-flammable methane that would be transferred to a local pipeline and sent to the West Coast for sale to power companies.

The landfill is governed by the New River Solid Waste Association's board of directors, which consists of county commissioners from Baker, Bradford and Union counties. The board received an update from its engineer, Jones Edmunds of Jacksonville, on contract negotiations with Janecek during its regular monthly meeting August 11.

The negotiations ended recently and final drafts of the contract are now undergoing review by each party's legal counsel, said Joel Woosley of Jones Edmunds.

He said there were "11th-hour negotiations" that won New River a higher price for its raw gas and a provision to increase the price 1 percent each year.

"The contract is looking really good," Mr. Woosley told the board.

The 15-year deal, with a five year renewal option, would pay New River Solid Waste Association \$1.47 per MBTU, or million British thermal units. New River would also receive a \$150,000 nonrefundable deposit from Janecek upon execution of the contract.

"[Mr. Janecek's] words to me were, 'I'm chomping at the bit to get it up and running as soon as possible,'" said Mr. Woosley.

The board voted 4-0 to execute the contract pending approval by the landfill's attorney, Terry Brown of Starke.

New River's landfill gas is the result of another project launched in 2001 in partnership with the Hinkley Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the University of Florida, and the University of Central Florida to construct and monitor the New River Bioreactor.

The bioreactor infuses the landfill's cells with air and liquids to speed up decomposition of waste in the cells, which results in higher quality landfill gas that's collected and burned. The Janecek project offers an way for New River to benefit financially

from the facility's gas.

Previous estimates from Jones Edmunds engineers show the landfill could profit some \$500,000 annually from the endeavor.

In other business that evening:

- Board members agreed to request proposals or qualifications from vendors to supply services now provided under eight service contracts, ranging from lawn care and pest control to financial help and heavy equipment repairs.

New River's executive director Darrell O'Neal initially asked that all 12 of the landfill's current vendor contracts, due to expire September 30, be extended unchanged another year, contingent upon approval from vendors.

He feared that seeking new engineers and surveyors could delay ongoing construction of the landfill's newest cell, and rebidding less critical services could lead to more costly contracts.

That didn't sit well with Baker County Commissioner Mark Hartley, however. He understood the need to retain professional services related to the landfill's expansion, but suggested the other contracts be advertised.

"Keep the ones we need to keep and bid out the rest," he said. "They may come back the same, but if we don't do it, we'll never know."

The director countered, saying the move could still prove risky. He cited the \$3500 a month that New River receives from its recycling contract with SP Recycling of Atlanta.

"If we get zero bids, that puts us behind," said Mr. O'Neal.

In the end, the board agreed to extend Tom Jenkins Electrical Service's contract for electrical construction and maintenance, Florida Industrial Scale's contract for truck scale maintenance and repair, SP Recycling's contract for recycling and Patrick Welch & Associates' contract for surveying services.

New River will advertise for lawn maintenance, computer maintenance, pest control, equipment repair and maintenance, heating and air conditioning, cleaning, accounting and auditing, and financial services.

"In these times ... people are hungry," said board chairman Doyle Thomas of the Bradford County Commission in support of the decision.

- The board also accepted Ring Power's price of about \$451,136 for the purchase of a replacement compactor.

The price is the same as that of the compactor bought in 2008 from Ring Power. A company representative said that while the wholesale price of the compactor, manufactured by Caterpillar, has risen, the sale price did not due to the company's relationship with New River.

Disarms fire door, makes off with DVDS

An unidentified while male was caught on a surveillance video disarming the alarm on a fire door before leaving the Macclenny Walmart in the early morning of August 9 with five automotive DVDs and recorders.

Store security contacted the sheriff's office late that afternoon when an inventory check revealed the items valued at \$762 missing, and a subsequent review of videotapes showed the suspect leaving through the fire door off the garden center about 5:05 am. He had been in the store 15 minutes.

Deputy Robert Simpkins' report notes the tapes depict the suspect disarming the door, going to the electronics department and grabbing two DVD players and three player-recorders before exiting the door and entering a waiting white Dodge Durango.

In another shoplifting case, Tommy Covington, 31, of Macclenny was arrested the evening of August 9 shortly after he left the Kangaroo Store on US 90 east with \$77.50 worth of stolen merchandise.

Deputy Johnny Hodges said he confronted the suspect outside the building about 8:25 after responding to a call from the store clerk, who said Mr. Covington exited with bulging pockets after re-entering the store. Earlier he had acted suspiciously.

Mr. Covington told the deputy he knows the clerk Shane White, who told him he could take the merchandise and "not to get greedy." The deputy noted the items were in a bag, and said they included cigarettes, over-the-counter medicine, eyeglasses and food.

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DOC's re-entry prison going up

400-plus bed unit between I-10 and Olustee on 90

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Two years after Baker Correctional Institute became home to the Florida Department of Correction's re-entry program for Northeast Florida, construction of a 400-plus-bed re-entry center dedicated to the program and located 4 miles east of the prison on US 90 near Olustee is well underway.

The department's re-entry program focuses more state resources on preparing offenders to return to society and funnels them to prisons near the counties from which they came, and closer to the community resources they'll likely need.

At BCI, inmates in the program can take advantage of academic and vocational education, drug abuse counseling and Christian-based family counseling, while meeting with government and nonprofit agencies poised to assist them upon release, which must be within three years time.

Today those in the program are bused to the Jacksonville Re-entry Center operated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to meet with probation officers, register as convicted felons and learn about housing and other assistance available in the region. Self-help clinics are also provided at BCI by Jacksonville Area Legal Aide addressing consumer, housing, family and employment laws.

"Re-entry is public safety," said BCI warden Chris Southerland during an August 16 luncheon between program per-



Above BCI officer Westberry supervises an inmate crew at the future site of the re-entry center's generator pad. Below is BCI warden Chris Southerland.

sonnel and public officials in the region like Sheriff Joey Dobson and Florida House Rep. Stephen Wise.

"What we've been doing is wrong. We can't just lock them up and throw away the key until they get out ...," she said. "Why would we not want to make our communities safer? Why not make the offender a better person before they come back to society?"

The warden said the goal of the luncheon was to educate community partners like the various sheriff's in the region about BCI's re-entry program because only inmates set for release in Duval, Clay, Baker, Nassau, Bradford, Columbia or Union counties will



end up there. "They're inmates, but they're human beings too," added Curtis

Neeley, BCI classification supervisor and re-entry liaison. "Re-entry is about helping them and helping you."

"We're here to educate you on what our mission is and how we can partner to make better communities," said Ms. Southerland.

The new re-entry facility under construction and scheduled for completion in October, 2012 will have three dorms, visitor and inmate shelters and a building for classrooms and a kitchen.

Water, sewer and electric utilities will be extended from BCI east to the 25-acre site.

The move toward re-entry began at BCI in 2009 when the department's Secretary Walter A. McNeil designated the 32-year-old facility a re-entry prison.

The prison and nearby work camp house more than 1300 inmates. They're staffed by more than 300 employees.

Staffing numbers have not been finalized for the re-entry center, said Cheryl Phillips, assistant warden of operations at BCI, but they'll likely be a little higher than those at the work camp.

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Your help as a volunteer can make a profound difference in a child's life. Be the one to make that difference. Volunteers are especially needed in Baker County. Call 904-966-6237 or go to guardianadlitem.org.

A Guardian ad Litem information meeting will also be held at the Emily Taber Library in Macclenny on August 18 from noon - 2:00 pm to help you learn more about the program and helping children.

Learn computers

The Baker County Career and Adult Education Center is offering beginning and intermediate computer classes for citizens 55 years old and older.

Classes will be held at 523 W. Minnesota Avenue beginning August 22, pre-registration is required. Please call 259-0403 for more information.

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Hello, My name is Jamie Giddens and I am offering myself as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Okefenokee Rural Electric Cooperative District 7 in Charlton County.

My wife is Jana Crews Giddens and we have two children, Caleb and Cricket Giddens. I am the son-in-law of Barbara and Joe Sharman of Macclenny. We are active members of Hickox Baptist Church.

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Jamie Giddens

GLEN TOWN COUNCIL

Sewer extension bid \$30,607

The Glen St. Mary Town Council accepted the lowest of four bids for a sewer line extension on Lincoln Ave. bringing in a dozen more customers.

The unanimous vote came during the board's regular monthly meeting the evening of August 16. It awarded a \$30,607 contract to Covenant Underground Utilities, Inc., based on Glen St. Mary.

It was one of two local bidders - Burnham Construction, Inc. of Macclenny was the other at \$39,000.

Two other firms - Geer Contracting of Middleburg at \$45,053.70 and Southern Development Corporation of Jacksonville at \$57,848 - rounded out the bidding.

Because a portion of the block-long project will use 8-inch piping rather than 6-inch, the town needs approval from the Department of Environmental Protection and a \$500 permit.

That is expected in a month or so, and the work will commence shortly after, indicated Mayor Juanice Padgett, who told the board the winning bidder is used by the City of Macclenny on util-

ity projects and she was assured its performance record is sound.

Councilman Dickie Foster, a plumbing contractor who will oversee the project without charge, reiterated his belief that the relatively low bids are a sign of the economic times.

"It's a hungry world out there," he commented when the bids were presented.

The council also voted that evening to cash in a \$50,000 certificate of deposit to pay for the extension and accompanying design and other expenses.

The remaining estimated \$15,000 will be funneled into the town's sewer budget for expansion reserves, probably in the east town where several areas like Lincoln await.

The town currently has \$255,000 in cash reserves held in CDs, and the board in the past indicated it prefers to keep roughly a year's expenses in a "rainy day fund."

The Lincoln St. project emerged from a complaint by the county health department's environmental office over septic tank density resulting from eight apartments on Taber Blvd.

between US 90 and the railroad. They will be connected west to Lincoln where the sewer line will be buried down the middle right-of-way.

Several other private residences will be hooked up as well.

Meanwhile, a main water system is being buried in neighborhoods north of US 90, funded by a \$600,000 CDBG grant. That system will feed off another deep well behind town hall.

Following the regular meeting, the board held a workshop on its proposed budget for the next fiscal year, effective on October 1.

The largest of five, the general fund, is proposed at \$166,660 on the spending side, a very slight jump over 2011. On the revenue side, the town anticipates the same \$169,000 as this year.

In the utility fund, proposed spending is \$110,583 versus increased revenues of \$125,200, up from this year's \$99,100 because of anticipated new utility bills with added water and sewer customers.

Minor budget categories of impact and capacity fees are virtually unchanged.

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PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Leo Taylor (above) was largely unharmed after the SUV shown above flipped in the median of Interstate 10 during a two-vehicle accident the afternoon of August 10. His wife and grandson received minor injuries.

Minor injuries in rollover

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

A Glen St. Mary family, including a 7-year-old boy, survived a rollover accident on I-10 with minor injuries the afternoon of August 10.

Donna Webber, 33, of Hawthorne, FL was charged in the crash for improperly changing lanes, said Lt. Bill Leeper of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Leo Taylor, 69, of Glen was at the wheel of his 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe heading west on the interstate in the left lane near the Nassau-Baker county line about

1:30 pm when Ms. Webber's 2011 Ford pickup moved from the right lane into the left lane.

Lt. Leeper said the truck struck the SUV, which then traveled into the median and overturned.

Mr. Taylor, along with wife Claudia, 58, and grandson Jerry Davis, were returning from a doctor visit in Jacksonville.

"They cut me off in the left lane and slowed practically to a stop at the turnaround," Mr. Taylor said shortly after the crash, referencing the path between the east and west bound lanes near mile marker 340 often used by emergency vehicles.

"I didn't have any choice but to leave the road to keep from crashing into them ... I swerved to the left to miss them and the

car went into the median and flipped," he said.

Mr. Taylor was unharmed but his wife and grandson were taken to Fraser Hospital with minor injuries.

Mrs. Taylor said early this week she's still sore and would have stitches removed from the back of her head this week. She said her grandson is fine.

"We're so fortunate and blessed," she said.

Also in the Ford pickup was passenger Tara Donley, 40, of Hawthorne. She nor the driver were injured, but the left front fender and tire were damaged.

Mr. Taylor was charged with a seat belt law violation because the youth was not restrained.

Kelley Lannigan contributed to this story.

Sprucing up clubhouse

Women's Club, Lions in joint effort

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

The Women's Club of Macclenny and the Baker County Lions Club share a common building on South 6th Street and have done so for decades.

Over the years the building has served Macclenny and surrounding communities as the venue for countless meetings, wedding and baby showers, receptions, luncheons, banquets, business functions, fashion shows, health screenings, library programs, flower shows and fund raisers.

Lately, the Women's Club has been receiving some needed interior and exterior improvements.

And there is a good reason. The club is a member of the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs of Florida, District 4, which includes Baker, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay, Duval, Putnam and Bradford counties.

The district meeting is hosted every two years by a different club and this year, the honor falls to Macclenny.

Many organization dignitaries will be present, including current district director Janis Combs and Pat Zazzarino, who will become the state president of the Greater Federation of Florida Women's Clubs in 2012.

The meeting will include judging and display of the annual district scrapbook competition as well.

When the Women's Club recently petitioned the Lions for help, the guys didn't hesitate to step up to the plate. Work crews from both clubs as well as outside contractors have been giving the property some heavy doses of tender loving care over the last few weeks.

"We wanted our building to be presented at its best," said club member Trilby Crews, who with member Sheryl Lunn spent a morning last week hacking away



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Sheryl Lunn, left, and Trilby Crews attack the shrubs.

at the considerable overgrowth of azalea bushes.

She described how Lions members had been working to remove the jungle of tangled Virginia creeper vines that had virtually taken over the entire north side of the building and had even begun obscuring the windows.

"The Lions have been here to work in the yard as much as their schedules allow, but they've been busy with other projects in the community as well, so we decided to be yard fairies and show up today," said Ms. Crews. "Besides, they've been taking care of some major structural work on our building."

So what's been done to the building itself?

A new roof for one thing. Several years ago, Tropical Storm Fay blasted Macclenny with heavy rain and strong winds. The clubhouse roof held, but had been leaking ever since. Stop gap measures ultimately weren't enough and roofers were called in to make it all new.

In addition, the building has been rewired inside. Rotting sections of lumber on the hand-capped ramp have been replaced and the porch and ramp railings have gotten a new coat of gray paint.

Bricks were brought in for landscaping as well, to spruce up the appearance of the base of the flagpole.

The property is now ship shape and should make a good impression on out of town guests.

The clubhouse was built in 1930 and placed on the Baker County Historical Registry in 1995. Over the years it has also been a health clinic and living quarters for homeless families.

'Bash' set for August 27 to benefit ill boy

Saturday, August 27 has been set aside for a Back to School Bash at the Macclenny Moose Lodge to benefit Westside Elementary second grader Hayden Williams, who has AML leukemia.

Young Hayden remains confined to Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, where he awaits a second bone marrow transplant.

The first transplant attempt failed.

Organizers will arrange for games, entertainment, a Dump-A-Cop booth and food concessions that day from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm on the Moose property off West Lowder in Macclenny.

A 42" television and Remington .30-06 will be raffled, and tickets are already on sale at the lodge, Advanced Auto Parts and Hair Mechanics.

All participants are urged to wear orange that day in support of Hayden, whose family is posting regular updates on his progress at CaringBridge.org

To volunteer or get more information, call Amy Collins at 904-769-9060 or Annette Barton at 904-626-3173.



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Backpacks and Buzz Lightyear

'School Story' play inspires returning students

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

Mrs. and Mrs. Potato Head, Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Barbie and other characters from the cast of *Toy Story* helped excite students about returning to school at Destiny People Worship Center on August 14.

The church presented its annual back to school service with attendance to a near-capacity audience.

Now in its seventh year, the event is the church's gift to all children of the community.

Included were free haircuts for kids by local cosmetologists and a giveaway of backpacks filled with school supplies such as paper, glue sticks, scissors, folders, notebook paper and even toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The event theme, *School Story*, was inspired by the popular series of *Toy Story* movies.

Many kids in the audience had an interactive role with the play, being called up as volunteers in different scenes and participating in the hilarious "hands free" cookie eating challenge.

Children sat on the steps of the stage, tilted their heads up and tried to work a cookie down over their face and into their mouths without touching it.



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN
Megan Barton gets a haircut from Dennis Dugger.

Destiny pastor Dave Ragan, who portrayed Woody, joked with the audience after the *School Story* play concluded.

"I know pictures of me in this getup will be eating up Facebook!" he said.

He thanked all church members and recognized community sponsors who helped make the event successful. He especially thanked the church's KIDZ ministry leaders Jeremiah and Jamie Yoder, who spearheaded the *School Story* play.

The play reflected helpful lessons about attitude, teamwork,

faith, responsibility and the spirit of giving.

That spirit of giving was manifested for real after Pastor Ragan announced with regret that there were not enough backpacks for all the children who showed up.

His apology gave way to a struggle to hold back tears. Children who held tickets to receive backpacks began coming forward, voluntarily giving up their backpacks so others could receive them.

After the backpack giveaway, children got to meet the *School Story* cast and pose for pictures, then enjoy hamburgers and hot-dogs outside while they waited for a chance to get their hair cut.

Local cosmetologists and barbers from Studio 1, Straighten Up Or Dye and Trav's Barber Shop brought their own chairs and equipment and turned the children's church building into a

bona fide beauty salon.

"These folks (cosmetologists) do this every year," said Pastor Ragan. "Today they'll cut about 100 heads of hair."

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Community important to returning teacher

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

Baker County native Vikki Charboneau's first teaching job was at Keller Intermediate.

After only two years, she moved to Jacksonville with her husband and taught at Durban Creek Elementary in St. Johns County.

But her heart was always in Baker County.

After a long hiatus which included leaving teaching to care for twin daughters and live in Charleston, SC, she's teaching again in Baker County, this time at Baker County Middle School.

The county's teachers were back in the classroom August 15, and after a traditional welcome back breakfast, they dove into a morning of faculty meetings and a myriad of other planning activities.

"It's so great to be back in this community," said Ms. Charboneau as she sat at her desk in her new classroom last Monday.

According to the young teacher, the ranks of seventh graders have swelled this year, making it necessary to hire an entire new unit of teachers.

Because of the number of students, she'll be one of the teachers that helps handle the overflow.

Although used to younger students, she believes her work with teenagers at her church has helped prepare her for her new middle school teaching position.

"I always thought I'd go back to Keller eventually, but I'm truly excited about teaching at a higher grade level and can't wait to meet my new students," she said.

She expects that she and the students will spend the first day in the classroom learning about each other. Then it will be about what's expected for the coming



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN
Vikki Charboneau

year and how the class will be structured.

"Then, we'll be hitting the books," she said.

After earning a psychology degree with an emphasis in child psychology from Florida State University in 2001, Ms. Charbo-

neau began substituting at Keller Intermediate.

"Gail Brown was my first principal," she said. "As a brand new teacher, I couldn't have asked for a better person in that role. I really believe it's because of her that I fell in love with teaching."

She taught at Keller for three years, then moved to Jacksonville in 2004. Two years of teaching in St. Johns County followed. Then the arrival of the twins Ava and Elle, followed by relocation to Charleston, SC.

Family ties are what ultimately brought her back to Baker County.

"We wanted the girls to be raised near their relatives," she said.

After moving back, she began substituting at the middle school and finally felt ready this year to reenter the teaching profession.

"I told Ms. Barrett, the middle school principal, I needed to be sure I was ready," she said. "Because it's important to me to do the best job I can do."

She's genuinely excited about teaching again.

She says if she's learned anything about living away from the place of her birth, it's that Baker

County has a sense of community that is rare.

"People here are just genuine good southern people. The 'yes ma'am' and 'no ma'am' that's so common, that's something you just don't find everywhere."

She admits as a younger person, she didn't appreciate it as fully as she does now.

"I didn't know I would feel this way as a younger person, but now I'm so thankful for the way we were raised in this community," she said.

Sheriff's school safety tips

Next Monday, August 22, an estimated 5000 students and 350 teachers will return to the classroom and some 90 school buses will return to the roads in the mornings and afternoons.

The sheriff's office offered the following traffic safety tips for bus riders, motorists and parents.

Parents Take time to carefully review your child's route to school before the first day. Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic so be sure your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.

Bus riders Have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and off the street. Never sit on the road or curb while waiting and remain seated while riding the bus.

Motorists Allow extra time to reach your destination and watch for school buses and crossing guards. Both directions of traffic must stop when bus lights are flashing and stop signs displayed. Be aware of slower speed limits in school zones. Speeding fines are doubled in these areas.

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Infant Leuluai dies August 7th

Tre Snow Leuluai, infant son of Kayli and Lorenzo Leuluai, was born July 27, 2011 and died August 7, 2011.

Survivors include parents Kayli and Lorenzo Leuluai of West Jordan, Utah; sisters Zoe and Ava; paternal grandparents Davy and Launoo Leuluai of West Jordan; maternal grandparents George and Jeannie Knabb of Macclenny.

Tre was laid to rest August 13 in West Jordan. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Henry Linton Sr., 76, of Macclenny

Henry Owen Linton Sr., 76, of Macclenny died on July 31, 2011 at his home. Mr. Linton was born in Live Oak and resided in Baker County for 23 years. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Macclenny.



Henry Linton

He was the son of Shelly and Eula Jones Linton and a construction worker for over 50 years. Mr. Linton was preceded in death by son Henry Linton Jr.; brothers Dick Linton and Buddy Linton; sisters Merle English and Ginny Linton.

Survivors include wife Katherine Linton of Macclenny; daughters Katherine Hayes of Keystone Heights, Lisa Knight of Orange Park; sons Greg Linton of Ocala, Kevin Linton of Green Cove Springs and Tony Linton of Macclenny; sisters Fran Coxwell of Jacksonville, Mary English of Live Oak, Betty Bernheim of Buna, TX, Nancy Allen of Jacksonville and Norma Lawson of Live Oak; 17 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The funeral service was held August 3 at 11:00 am at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Live Oak with the Revs. Donnie Williams and H. David Hingson officiating. Interment followed at Shady Grove Cemetery. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Palmer, 84, service at later date

Mazie T. Palmer, 84, of Jacksonville died August 11, 2011. She was born in Union County to Lawton Walton Thornton and Verdine Gatlin Thornton on February 11, 1927. She was a resident of Jacksonville most of her life and worked in the clerical department of JEA for more than 20 years before retirement. She loved birds, history and visiting museums. In her early years, she enjoyed painting with oil. She also belonged to the Senior Citizens Group.

She was predeceased by son Robert Charles Palmer. Survivors include brother Gene Thornton; sister Margaret Lucille Thornton (Will) Ward.

A graveside service will be held at a later date at Macedonia Cemetery in Macclenny with Pastor Hubert W. Chapman Sr. officiating. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Darrell Mobley, 54, computer tech

Darrell Dwayne Mobley, 54, of Macclenny died Tuesday, August 9, 2011 in Macclenny, where he resided all his life. He was a computer technician who developed web sites for businesses. He was preceded in death by father Curtis Eugene Mobley.



Darrell Mobley

Survivors include son Jason Dwayne Mobley of Jacksonville; mother Elvie Suggs Mobley of Macclenny.

The graveside funeral service was held at 11:00 am August 12 at Macedonia Cemetery in Macclenny with Rev. Donnie Suggs of Mississippi officiating. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Wilford Padgett, 60, was Army vet

Wilford Harold Padgett, 60, of Jacksonville died August 4, 2011. He was born in Jacksonville to the late Preston Padgett and Leona Harris Padgett on January 23, 1951. He was a life-long resident of Maxville and honorably served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed fishing, tending to livestock, reading and watching westerns.



Wilford Padgett

Mr. Padgett was predeceased by siblings Sammy Padgett, L.J. Padgett, Franklin Padgett, Buddy Padgett, Lewis Padgett, David Wayne Padgett, Betty Manning and Nancy Rosier.

Survivors include daughter Melissa Jo Padgett of Jacksonville; brother Tommy (Sherrrie) Padgett of Jacksonville; sisters Edith Prentice and Barbara (Earl) Magruder of Jacksonville; grandson Joseph Brown; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held August 9 at 11:00 am at Long Branch Baptist in Macclenny with Pastor Tommie Capps officiating. Interment followed at Long Branch Cemetery in Maxville. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Philip Phillips, 61, dies July 8th

Philip Michael Phillips, 61, of Macclenny died July 8, 2011. He was born in Flushing, New York to the late Philip Minas Phillips and Virginia Frances Cochran Phillips on October 20, 1949. He had been a resident of Baker County since 1980 after moving from College Point, NY. Philip enjoyed swimming and boating.

Survivors include sisters Adelaide (Dale) Schock and Victoria Graver; two nieces, three nephews and four grand-nephews.

A memorial service will be held August 20 at 11:00 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel with Father Jose Maniyangat officiating. Interment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, NY.

Dallas Ramer, 66, dies on August 11

Dallas Richard Ramer, 66, of Lake Butler died August 11, 2011 at Shands Hospital UF in Gainesville after an extended illness. Mr. Ramer was born in DeFuniak Springs and lived most of his life in Baker and Union counties. He was a retired truck driver and attended the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler. Mr. Ramer was the son of the late Preston Dallas and Gladys Hollingsworth Ramer.

Survivors include daughter Charmin Mizell of Raiford; sons Kevin and Christopher Ramer, both of Raiford, Richie Ramer of Ft. Walton Beach, Dallas Ramer Jr. of Hosford and Christopher Ramer of Lake City; 13 grandchildren.

The graveside funeral service was held August 14 at 2:30 pm at Dekle Cemetery in Lake Butler with Rev. Jason Johns officiating. Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler was in charge of arrangements.



In Loving Memory of Bobby Balkcom

1/10/1970 - 8/14/2006

Our most cherished son, brother, father and uncle.

You are our guardian angel. I feel you in the moonlit night and the warmth of the morning sun. When it rains I think of you sending tears from Heaven for us wishing we were with you.

Memories are what get us through the day. You are so deeply loved — it has been hard learning to live without you.

Racing and family were your passions; you won many checkered flags racing. We honor you with a special "checkered flag" for who you were to us. We miss you so much. Heaven help me, it is hard to accept you are gone.

LOVE EVERLASTING, MOM

In Loving Memory of Bobby Balkcom

1/10/1970 - 8/14/2006

Bobby, We love you and miss you.

DAD, DAVID, KAREN AND FAMILY

Press Ad Deadline: Monday 5:00 PM

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church

CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL

Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church

121 North † 259-4461

Macclenny, FL

Pastor Tim Cheshire

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm



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



In Loving Memory of Tiffany Christy

9/21/1987 - 8/16/2008

It's been three years since you've been gone, words can never express the pain of losing you. You will always be missed but I know you are at rest. We love you.

LOVE, MOM, BRENT, CASEY, KATLIN AND YOUR CHILDREN

Homecoming

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church on 121 North in Macclenny is celebrating its homecoming August 21 at 11:00 am.

The Holy Ground Quartet will be the featured singers. Dinner will be served following morning services; no evening service will be held.

Welcome First Baptist Church of Sanderson

CR 229 S., Sanderson FL

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sun. Morning Worship . 11:00 am
Sun. Evening Worship . . 6:00 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study . . 7:00 pm
Pastor Bob Christmas
<http://www.fbcfsanderson.org>

Cornerstone Congregational Methodist Church

Where relationships are built to last an Eternity

482 South 7th St., Macclenny, FL

Service Times –
Sunday 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 PM

Rev. Eddy Sanders, Pastor
Rev. Mae White, Assistant Pastor

We strive to provide all your family needs!

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Kenneth Peele, Jr.
Licensed Funeral Director
Embalmer & Notary
Pre Need Counselor
C.F.S.P.

904.354.0545 FAX 904.358.0167 929 W. Beaver St.
904.354.0546 Email: fkpjr@aol.com Jacksonville, FL 32204

THE LORD'S CHURCH

Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor •• 259-8353

Sunday school ~ 10:00 am
Sunday service ~ 11:00 am
Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm
Family style dinner ~ 1st Sunday of the month following service

Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

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Connecting > Growing > Serving

David Thomas-Senior Pastor Tim Thomas- Associate Pastor
Gary Crumney-Youth Pastor

Looking for a place to plug in?
Join us this week!
There's something for every age!

Sundays
Sunday School- 10:00 am
Sunday Worship- 11:00 am
Evening Worship- 6:00 pm

Wednesdays
Wednesday Worship- 7:00 pm

We're located at 251 W. Ohio Ave.
Macclenny, FL
Office: 904-259-3548

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www.christianfellowshiptemple.com

We want to know...
WEDDINGS & BIRTHS
4 week deadline

The Road to Calvary

Corner of Madison & Stoddard
Glen St. Mary
Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
Youth Director Margie Howard
Phone: 904-259-2213

Sunday School: 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service . . . 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

Saint Peter's in the Glen

ANGLICAN CHURCH

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
10:00 am Sunday Worship/
Holy Communion
7:00 pm Wednesday Study/
Holy Communion

Glen St. Mary, Florida
1/2 mile South of I-10 on CR 125,
right on Nursery Road the historic
Budder Mathis House

We print obituaries with a picture free of charge.

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH

CR 127 N. of Sanderson

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm

Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford



Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr.

Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

523 North Boulevard W.
a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com •• 259-4529



In Loving Memory of Samuel J. Fowler
9/04/1936 - 8/16/20009

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you and He whispered "Come to Me." With tearful eyes we watched you. We watched you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, We could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, Hard-working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He chose to take the best. It's lonesome here without you, We miss you more each day. Life doesn't seem the same Since you have gone away. When days are sad and lonely, And everything goes wrong, We seem to hear you whisper "Cheer Up and Carry On" Each time we see your picture, You seem to smile and say, "Don't cry, I'm in God's hands, We'll meet again someday!"

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU, ANN RICEMAN (DAUGHTER) AND TIFFANY STRAIT (GRANDDOUGHTER)

In Loving Memory of James Allen Coody Jr.
8/22/89 - 10/11/10

Although it's been a while, We still remember your smile. We'll never forget the day When you were taken away. Your smile is a reminder to us To live life at its fullest and Love your family and friends. Happy Birthday! You'll forever Be 21 and you'll always be in Our hearts with memories Of all the special times We had together.

WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND MISS YOU FOREVER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Online - **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Let people know what's going on - post your special event online bakercountypress.com



In Loving Memory of Pender Raulerson

What can I say now that I haven't said before? With every day that passes, I only miss you more. I can't come to grips with the fact that you are gone. I try to go and see you, but it always feels just wrong. Words cannot express the emptiness I feel. At times it doesn't seem to me that it's even real. There's no point to keep writing this. There's nothing left to say. I just want you here with us, on your 20th birthday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PENDER! ...I LOVE YOU AND YOU'LL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN LOVE, MOM AND FAMILY

In Loving Memory of Glenda Louise (Cline) Thigpen
8/17/1959 - 2/16/2009

Happy Birthday, my dear sister Wanted you to know that I love you and miss you and to tell you Happy Birthday. You will "never" be forgotten.

WITH ALL OF MY LOVE, YOUR L'IL BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW, PEE WEE AND WANDA THIGPEN

COPIES

Black & white/Full color
THE OFFICE MART
110 South Fifth St.



In Loving Memory of Earl T. "Pops" Wilkinson
1/26/1937 - 8/21/2010

We miss you more every day.

LOVE, YOUR FAMILY GLORIA, FAYE, KEITH, SHERI, JIMMY, MARCUS AND ANDREW



In Loving Memory of Michael Thomas Wilkinson
12/04/1987 and 8/19/2001

Our memory of you is still with us, even though it's been 10 years. We all hold the memory of your smile and even your laugh. You gave us so much in such a short amount of time. Our memories of you will never fade, for you are in our hearts forever.

YOUR LOVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Check it out... bakercountypress.com

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church
14670 SR 121 North † Macclenny, FL † 259-4461

REVIVAL

Wednesday Aug. 24 - Friday, Aug. 26 at 7:00 pm

featuring Priscilla Akins

Student art, essay contest

Baker County Rotary and Kiwanis clubs are sponsoring a student art and essay contest to celebrate Baker County's 150th Anniversary.

The art contest is open to all students in 1st-5th grades who reside in Baker County. Students should interpret a scene from the Battle of Olustee in any medium (pencil, pen, ink, paint, etc.) on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. Turn entries into Setel at 1165 S. 6th St. by September 3rd. Grand prize: \$100. Second place: \$25 Pizza Hut gift card.

The essay contest is open to all students in 6th-12th grades who are residents of Baker County. Essay theme: Why history is important. Entries should be typed or neatly printed in ink and should not exceed 400 words. Essays will be judged on content, spelling, grammar and neatness of appearance.

Prizes will be given in two categories: 6th - 8th grades and 9th - 12th grades. Grand prize in each group is \$100. Second place: \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Turn entries into Gibson MacDonal Furniture Store at 1468 6th Street by September 3rd.

Art for seniors

The Baker County Career and Adult Education Center is offering acrylic painting art activities for citizens 55 years old and older.

Classes will be held at 523 W. Minnesota Avenue beginning August 22, pre-registration is required. Please call 259-0403 for more information.

Sanderson Christian Revival Center

Pastor: Harold Finley
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:30 pm
Come see the exciting things the Lord is doing.
Corner of Sapp Rd. and CR 229

New Hope Church, Inc.

23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Fairgrounds Rd.
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Children's Church 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Services 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all

LIMITED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to an application submitted by Duncan and Jill Walters to be granted a Special Exception in accordance to Section 3.04.09.02(1) of the Baker County Land Development Regulations on property located on King Ruise Road in Glen St. Mary, Florida. The Baker County Land Planning Agency will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the Special Exception request. The nature of the request is to operate a kennel. Written comments for or against the Special Exception may be sent to the Baker County Planning and Zoning Department, 360 E Shuey Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to 904-259-5057. Copies of the Special Exception may be inspected by any member of the public in the Planning and Zoning Department, at address stated above.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should contact the Administration Department at 904-259-3613 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

Moniac Baptist Church Revival

August 21 - 25 at 7:00 PM

with Pastor Jason Delgado and Pastor Joseph "Ricky" Dyal

& live music

Highway 185 | Saint George GA 31562

United Christian Academy

28 W. Macclenny Ave.
(Midtowne Center)
259-1199

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ALSO ENROLLING FREE VPK

Eagle's Nest School Readiness Center
6 wks. - VPK | 259-8466

"...they shall mount up with wings as eagles..." Isaiah 40:31

Moniac Baptist Church Homecoming August 28

with Pastor Richard Fish and Music by The Thomas Family
Dinner on the grounds following morning service
Please bring a cover dish

Highway 185 | St. George GA, 31562



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904-259-2211
www.guerryfuneralhome.net

SOCIAL

SOCIAL NOTICE SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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.

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



Armes - Carr

September vows

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Armes and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Carr of Macclenny are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children Kristin Renee Armes and Wayne Steven Carr II.

The bride is a graduate of the University of Florida's College of Design, Construction and Planning and is employed as an interior designer in Jacksonville.

The groom is a graduate of the University of North Florida with a degree in computer and information science and is employed by Aetna in Jacksonville.

The wedding will be held on September 10 at the Mathis House in Glen St. Mary. Following the honeymoon, the couple will reside in Jacksonville.



Finley - Guinn

August 20 vows

Darrell and Debbie Finley of Macclenny are proud to announce the upcoming marriage of daughter Amanda Katlyn Finley to Carl Douglas Quinn Jr. of Folkston, Georgia. Carl is the son of Carl and Sandi Quinn of Folkston.

Family and friends are invited to join the couple at the home of Bobby and Emily Franklin in Callahan, FL at 6:00 pm on August 20 for the wedding.

Following a honeymoon to the Bahamas, the couple will reside in Folkston.

Corrections

Last week's *Impressions* column by Jim McGauley on the pending county budgets contained two inaccurate statements.

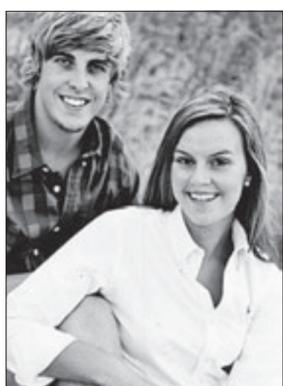
First, the comment "big elephant in the room" referring to the sheriff's budget was made by County Commissioner Adam Giddens, not Michael Crews.

Second, according to Jeffrey Cox, the finance manager for Baker County Development Corporation, which manages the new county jail, principal payments on its long-term debt were made in February (\$315,000) and on August 1 (\$715,000).

Mr. McGauley stated the BCDC was paying interest only on the debt.

He based that statement on previously reported BCDC meetings during which the "interest-only" policy was adopted and, more recently, again made reference to that policy.

Neither Mr. Cox nor anyone else from BCDC called the newspaper's attention to the principal payments following those news reports in February and July.



Hays - Appleby

Fall wedding

Perry and Leigh Ann Hays of Macclenny and Larry and Pattie Appleby of Hendersonville, NC are happy to announce the engagement of their children Meredith Hays of Macclenny and Blake Appleby of Jacksonville.

Meredith is a graduate of the University of North Florida and teaches seventh grade at Baker County Middle School.

Blake is a student at Liberty University and is student minister at Bryceville First Baptist Church.

The wedding will take place this fall at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

Basic skills test

Baker County School District's Career and Adult Education will be administering the adult basic skills tests on August 25. Registration will be promptly at 8:30 am, with testing starting at 9:00 am and ending at 1:00 pm.

A fee of \$20 and a valid picture ID will be required at the time of registration. Please bring the exact amount as no change will be given. Please contact Wanda Conner at 259-0403 with any questions.



Mr. Dyal and Ms. Palmer

Palmer-Dyal

Jessica Lynn Palmer and Thomas E. "Bubba" Dyal Jr. are planning a September 10 wedding at Caribe Resort in Orange Beach, AL.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Ralph and Janet Ellis of Orange Park, and the granddaughter of Anita LaChance of Nashua, New Hampshire and the late Charles and Carole Beaulieu of Gulf Shores, AL.

The prospective groom is the son of Thomas E. "Buck" Dyal Sr. of Taylor and Patty Rosier of Jacksonville. He is the grandson of Thomas and Betty Fay Dyal and the great-grandson of Virgil and Lucille Conner, all of Taylor.

Ms. Palmer is a 2005 graduate of Ridgeview High School in Orange Park and currently attends Florida State Community College in Jacksonville. She is employed by the Florida Highway Patrol in Jacksonville as a duty officer supervisor and communications training coordinator.

Mr. Dyal graduated from Baker County High School in 2004 and the Law Enforcement Academy in Lake City in 2006. He is a detention deputy with the Baker County Sheriff's Office and a lieutenant in the Baker County volunteer fire department.

The couple will honeymoon on the Alabama Gulf coast and host a reception for family and friends upon their return.



Hunter Smith

Brother is born

Kaleb, Josh, Hannah and Katie Smith of Glen St. Mary are pleased to announce the arrival of brother Hunter Ray on August 8, 2011 at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville.

Hunter weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measured 21 inches long.

Proud parents are Tommy and Martha Smith. Grandparents include Lucinda Korkowski of Sanderson, Russell Wiesemeyer of Macclenny and Larry and Tina Smith of Jacksonville.

'01 class reunion

The Baker County High School class of 2001 is having its 10-year reunion September 9 from 7:30 - 11:00 pm at the Hilltop Restaurant in Orange Park.

The cost is \$30 for individuals, \$60 for couples. Send checks or money orders payable to Class of 2001 Reunion, c/o Alison Webb, PO Box 725 Macclenny, Florida 32063. Payment must be received by August 26.

Harvey reunion

The Harvey family reunion will be August 20 beginning at noon at the Ag Center in Macclenny. Please bring a covered dish and an appetite. Paper goods and ice will be furnished. Call Sheldon at 259-5468 for more information.



Happy 9th Birthday,

Summer Bates

We love you, Garrett, Gage, Gavin, & Family

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church
121 North + 259-4461
Macclenny, FL

Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, Aug. 21
at 11:00 am
featuring

The Holy Ground Quartet
Dinner served immediately following morning services
No p.m. services



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BAKER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063

CATHERINE B. GOLON

Director of Nutrition Services, Purchasing and Warehousing
"Where Children Are First!"

Phone: (904) 259-4330
259-2825

Fax: (904)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome Back to School! NEW THIS YEAR! New students will be assigned a five (5) digit student meal identification number (bar code or pin number). Returning students will keep their number from the prior year. This is the number that a student enters on a "keypad" when obtaining a meal in the cafeteria. Each student's unique number is confidential and provided to the student on his/her class schedule. Good News: Prices are the same as last school year. Meal prices for the 2011-2012 school year are listed below:

Elementary Schools, Grade Pre-K - Grade 6, Breakfast \$1.50, Lunch \$2.00
Middle and High School, Grade 7 - Grade 12, Breakfast \$1.50, Lunch \$2.50

We strive to keep meal prices competitive while operating a cost effective program. Most of all, our goal is to offer nutritious meals that meet United States Department of Agriculture requirements and regulations.

In order to do this, we need your help and ask that you keep current with your child's meal account. Meal prepayment is always an option for parents, as well as qualification for free or reduced price meals. Should you wish to prepay, the chart provided below may be helpful:

Students in Grades Pre-K - 6	Full Price		Reduced Price		Students in Grades 7 - 12	Full Price		Reduced Price	
	Breakfast & Lunch	Lunch Only	Breakfast & Lunch	Lunch Only		Breakfast & Lunch	Lunch Only	Breakfast & Lunch	Lunch Only
Weekly Cost (5 day week)	\$17.50	\$10.00	\$3.50	\$2.00	Weekly Cost (5 day week)	\$20.00	\$12.50	\$3.50	\$2.00
9 Weeks Cost (45 days)	\$157.50	\$90.00	\$31.50	\$18.00	9 Weeks Cost (45 days)	\$180.00	\$112.50	\$31.50	\$18.00
Semester Cost (90 days)	\$315.00	\$180.00	\$63.00	\$36.00	Semester Cost (90 days)	\$360.00	\$225.00	\$63.00	\$36.00
Yearly Cost (180 days)	\$630.00	\$360.00	\$126.00	\$72.00	Yearly Cost (180 days)	\$720.00	\$450.00	\$126.00	\$72.00

Note that these meal prices do not include cost of extra items purchased or foods sold a la carte. Extra items are available at all schools. Should you wish your child to receive meals only, please notify the school cafeteria. Snacks and extra foods may not be charged.

All elementary schools through Grade 5 may prepay to avoid charging meals or eating on credit. Note that any payment received once debt is incurred will go towards the debt first and then future meals. **No student will be allowed to eat on credit for breakfast.**

All secondary schools, Baker County Middle School and High School students are **NOT** permitted to eat on credit. Note that incoming 6th graders to Baker County Middle School may not charge meals. **Please prepay for meals and keep current so that your child may receive a meal.** Again, on line prepayment is available.

Should you wish to pay in advance, you may do so by the week, month, or in any increment you wish. Any student who has a cafeteria debt will **NOT** be allowed to participate in field trips until the debt is paid in full.

Direct specific questions to your school's Nutrition Service Manager as listed below:

Pre-K/Kindergarten/6 th Grade Center	Cindy Sanders	(904) 259-0375
Macclenny Elementary School	Cindy Scott	(904) 259-2881
Westside Elementary School	Marlene Rhoden	(904) 259-6633
Keller Intermediate School	Penny Raulerson	(904) 259-4331
Baker County Middle School	Nancy Ash	(904) 259-3020
Baker County High School	Jeri Harvey	(904) 259-5960

Once again, your School Nutrition Service staff is looking forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services

Awana Clubs Awana is Coming **Awana Clubs**

First Baptist of Glen St. Mary invites everyone to
Come join the fun
Come for the games
Come for the refreshments
Come for friends and fellowship

Stay to learn about Jesus
Wednesday, August 24 6-8:00 pm
9846 George Taber Blvd. | Glen St. Mary

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Choose AutoCrafters Collision Repair.

www.autocrafterscollision.com

S & L Auto Glass
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1-888-452-7720

Burnett sees his role as confidant, not boss

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The following is the latest installment of *The Press' series about how a handful first-time office holders elected here last November are adjusting to life in public office and the challenges of governing after the worst recession since the Great Depression. District 4 school board member Charlie "Artie" Burnett of Glen St. Mary is the latest official to be featured in the series. The 53-year-old corrections officer, husband and father of two responded in writing recently to questions from The Press.*



Artie Burnett

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

A: It is not so much that I miss it, but as time goes on I am more acutely aware that when I speak up about an issue within our school district, I am not just speaking for myself. People seem to pay closer attention, because my opinion could have an impact on their children or grandchildren who are in school. Also, they may have a family member employed by the school district, considering the district is the second largest employer in the county behind the state hospital.

So, I find I need to do a lot more listening, and be as informed as I can before I speak. I have also found that some school employees are reluctant to express their concerns or feelings because they view me as a boss, so to speak. That is not how I see it at all. No one in the school district works for me. I am employed by the people of the county in conjunction with the other board members to make and oversee policies that will give the district employees the best opportunity to effectively and efficiently educate our children the best they can. I am convinced that our school district employees are some of the best and most dedicated people we could have.

I also know that even the best get frustrated or have concerns, especially about the bureaucratic challenges. I want them to feel comfortable discussing these issues with me. I am there even if they just need to vent. As Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson

recently expressed, our third graders were second in the state, but their scores could not be included with our other elementary grades (primarily 4th and 5th at Keller Intermediate School) because of how our district is set up by grades. She has expressed these bureaucratic challenges to legislators, who we hope may be able to help.

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

A: Primarily it has made my life a little busier. There has been a sharp learning curve, beginning in December with training sessions by the Florida School Board Association on what we can't do as school board members. I was aware of the twice-monthly school board meetings and occasional workshops. However, scheduling time off from my other job for the various training exercises has been a bit of a challenge. I have plenty of leave time, but with the hiring freezes by the state and subsequent staff shortages, it has been difficult at times.

Fortunately, my wife and children have been supportive and understanding of the minor impacts at home. Home has always been and continues to be that haven where I can rest and prepare to meet the challenges of the next day.

My church has been very supportive. Prior to being sworn in, I went before my church and asked them to pray for me. I asked that they pray for me and the school-

board anytime we come to mind, that the good Lord would give my and my fellow board members wisdom, understanding and guidance to make decisions that would be best for the children of our school district.

Q: What has been the most challenging decision you've faced so far, and why?

A: There have been two challenges that come to the top when I look back at the issues we've dealt with so far. First is employees' health benefits. I have worked for the state for 29-plus years and had to go through the process of changing health insurance providers some four times. This is not fun even though it may be better in the end. The process is stressful. I believe the "request for proposals" process we went through has been an improvement and that changing providers will be better for our employees. Time will tell.

Secondly, dealing with the disciplinary issues brought on by students possessing, using and distributing drugs at our schools has been difficult. The board has worked to give some flexibility to administrators from the absolute zero-tolerance policy where children were being brought before the board for expulsion for possessing a dose of Tylenol, ibuprofen and other over-the-counter medications. Children simply make mistakes and bad choices. It is not always easy making decisions to deal with these mistakes and bad choices, while keeping in mind the welfare of all the children, including the majority not making bad choices, going to school to get an education.

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

A: Seeing the children excel in their efforts, be it academic, athletic, musical, artistic or other extracurricular programs. Recognizing the academic achievers and getting a hug or a handshake from the child, while congratulating them for doing a good job. Also, recognizing our athletic teams such as the cheering squad for winning state for the fourth year in a row.

Hearing our bands perform, hearing that one of our stu-

dent artist's drawings will be displayed in Washington, and watching our JROTC present colors at our meeting are a few of the many things that bring joy to my heart. This is what it is all about, encouraging our children to excel in their endeavors.

I recently went to Plains, GA and saw the museum they have made out of their old high school for Jimmy Carter. From this community, that in the 1930s and 40s had around 700 residents and in the 1990s was all the way up to 716, came the 39th President of the United States. Wouldn't it be great if one day we had a national museum in Baker County celebrating one of our own young men or women that graduated from our public school district and went on to leave their mark on our nation and the world?

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

A: Just as it took a team effort of supporters to get elected to this office, it takes a team effort of board members and administrators to bring change to policy. After going to several School Board Association training sessions, I am very happy to be a member of the Baker County School Board

and a part of this district. I have heard stories from other school districts about fighting among board members and superintendents, and labor problems between school worker unions, superintendents and school boards. One district went so far as to direct the teachers union president to stop sending e-mails to the superintendent and board because his e-mails had become so derogatory. I am so glad and proud to be a part of a school district that believes in open and honest communication. Our trust that every person in the school district has the best interest of our children in their heart is very comforting and important.

Q: Do you think your job will get more or less difficult over time and why?

A: Financially, times are hard and it looks as if they are going to get worse. When you turn on the news and look at the fiasco going on in Washington about the whether to borrow more money or not, it can cause you to lose sleep. Tallahassee is under a lot of pressure to get all they can out of every dollar, which in turn puts that same pressure on our administration. Fortunately, our administration has always been frugal and we have some reserves. We have having to use some of those this year. Howev-

er, I am glad we are not having to deal with the issues our neighbors in Duval County are. We are a rural community and things are a little slower. This gives us time to sit and listen to our senior citizens, such as Mr. Clyde Johns, who just had his 100th birthday. Born in 1911, he has lived through two world wars, the Great Depression and the assassination of a very popular President before he turned 60 years old. He and others like him can tell us how to get through hard times, if we will take the time to listen. One thing I hear a lot from most of them is don't forget to pray.

Q: What are your goals going forward?

A: I think they're very similar to our other board members and administrators. Educate our children as effectively and efficiently as possible, so they have all the skills they need to be productive citizens and can enjoy life, liberty and happiness. In doing this, I hope we can avoid any layoffs and reductions of academic, athletic or arts programs.

Q: How often do you think about re-election?

A: I am too busy learning to be an informed and knowledgeable school board member to think much about re-election now. In two or three years I can look back and see how I feel about my contribution to the school district and whether it has been positive or not.

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PUBLIC RELEASE

The Baker County School Board announces its policy for Free and Reduced Price meals available for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The district's administrative office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Any interested person may review a copy of the policy by contacting Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services, 392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063, telephone number (904) 259-4330.

Household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility. These criteria can be found on the second page of this document. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals. An application can not be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information. Once approved, meal benefits are good for an entire year. You need not notify the organization of changes in income and household size.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

Households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) are required to list on the application only the child's name, Food Stamp / TANF case number, and signature of adult household member.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals, as well as Homeless/Displaced, Runaway and Migrant children regardless of household income. Please contact your child's school or the Nutrition Services Office at (904) 259-4330 if you do not receive a notice of eligibility stating your child will receive free meals.

Households with children who are considered migrants, homeless, or runaway should contact the district liaison, Susan Voorhees at (904) 259-6776.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members are considered a part of the household. Families should include the names of the deployed service members on their application. Report only that portion of the deployed service member's income made available to them or on their behalf to the family. Additionally, a housing allowance that is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative is not to be included as income.

All other households must provide the following information listed on the application:

- Total household income listed by gross amount received, type of income (e.g., wages, child support, etc.) and how often the income is received by each household member;
- Names of all household members;
- Signature of an adult household member certifying the information provided is correct; and
- The last four digits of the social security number of the adult signing the application or the word "NONE" for this household member if he or she does not have a social security number.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the school should be contacted. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed should also contact the school. Such changes may make the student eligible for reduced price or free meals if the household income falls at or below the levels shown below.

Under the provisions of the Free and Reduced Price meal policy Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he or she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent wishes to make a formal appeal, he or she may make a request either orally or in writing to Sherrie Raulerson, Superintendent of Schools, Baker County School Board, 392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063, or by telephone at (904) 259-6251.

Unless indicated otherwise on the application, the information on the Free and Reduced Price Meal application may be used by the school system in determining eligibility for other educational programs.

"In accordance with Federal law, and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

FLORIDA INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS
Effective from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012

Household size	Free Meal Scale is 130% of Federal Poverty Level				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	14,157	1,180	590	545	273
2	19,123	1,594	797	736	368
3	24,089	2,008	1,004	927	464
4	29,055	2,422	1,211	1,118	559
5	34,021	2,836	1,418	1,309	655
6	38,987	3,249	1,625	1,500	750
7	43,953	3,663	1,832	1,691	846
8	48,919	4,077	2,039	1,882	941
Each additional family member, add	4,966	414	207	191	96

Household size	Reduced Meal Scale is 185% of Federal Poverty Level				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	20,147	1,679	840	775	388
2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
Each additional family member, add	7,067	589	295	272	136

To determine annual income:

- If you receive the income every week, multiply the total gross income by 52.
- If you receive the income every two weeks, multiply the total gross income by 26.
- If you receive the income twice a month, multiply the total gross income by 24.
- If you receive the income monthly, multiply the total gross income by 12.

Remember: The total income before taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues, or other deductions must be reported.

Advertising Info.

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

For Sale

Office Supplies, printer and fax cartridges, rubber stamps and much more. We specialize in hard to find items. The Office Mart, 110 S. 5th Street. 259-3737. 4/28tfc

Small deep freezer -\$65, Entertainment center-\$25, 6 piece queen bedroom set-\$300, Chainsaw-\$60, Baby bed-\$30, 20 gallon hot water heater-\$30, Queen size 4 poster bed with mattress-\$150, Oneida Bow with accessories-\$100, Couch-\$20, Table and 4 chairs-\$75, Leather reclining love seat-\$75, 110 four-wheeler need cylinder-\$150, Solid wood dresser (blonde) with mirror-\$65, 904-424-8693. 8/18p

2007 Honda Motorcycle, VTXR Model, 1300cc, 42,000 miles, \$4500, one owner bike, extras too. 386-328-7420. 8/11-18p

'94 Jeep Suzuki Sidekick, 4 wheel drive, runs good but needs rear axle brace welded, good transmission, good motor, \$600. 904-755-4456, 259-2271. 8/18p

True commercial 3 door refrigerator \$2000, Grease trap \$350, Kitchen table \$75, 3 compartment sink \$75, 5 ceiling fans \$40 each, 904-705-4707. 8/18p

24' Prowler travel trailer \$3500, 259-5205. 8/18p

Grandfather clock-\$50; Toshiba laptop computer with vista windows, runs good-\$150; White and pink Disney laptop computer with box and paperwork, vista windows-\$150. 904-755-4456, 904-259-2271. 8/18p

1990 Fleetwood Southwind motor home 30' long, new fridge, extra clean, everything works, loaded. \$8500. 259-2121. 8/18tfc

We instal 6" seamless gutters. Pressure washing. 259-7335. 8/11tfc

9" Super Lift for 1973-79 Ford F-150 and 1978-79 Bronco. Brand new, in box with 456 gears for Dana 44 and Ford 9" differentials - never installed. \$700. 904-302-1877. 8/18-25p

Livingroom table set, medium oak with brown glass inserts on wheels. Storage space underneath with large beige and pastel table lamps. \$115. Call 275-3007, leave message. 5/19tfc

Thompson Center 50 Caliber Renegade \$200 Rick 904-477-0658. 7/28-8/18p

Handmade headstones for more information 259-8013. 8/18-25,9/1-8p

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

Landscaping mulch. While supply lasts. 259-2900. 4/28tfc

Camille Beckman hand cream. Root candles, unique gift items. Southern Charm 110 S. 5th Street. 259-4140. 4/28tfc

Automobiles

2010 Scion TC, excellent condition, 32,000 miles, automatic, alloy tires, \$17,500, 904-710-4031. 8/11-18p

1984 Nissan 720 pick-up, 200K plus miles, smokes, body rough, \$350, firm, maybe partial trade?, Ron 259-1927. 8/18-25p

Now accepting bids, contact Beth at 653-4453. 1994 Savanna fifth-wheel travel trailer with two slides. 2000 Dutchmen Fifth Avenue 5th wheel, with rear kitchen, 2 slides, plumed for washer/dryer. 6/23tfc

Miscellaneous

Need childcare? I will provide assistance in my home. All ages. All hours. 904-838-2287. 7/28-8/18p

Christian mom will clean your home or business. Have references and nearly 20 years experience. Call 259-8144. 8/4-8/18p

It's not too late, now enrolling, free voluntary pre-kindergarten at tiny tots daycare/pre-school. Call us today to help your child reach their future success. Contact Director Tabitha Gray or Angie Dugger 259-4737 or 993-4881. 8/18p

Christian mother babysitting in her home in Glen St. Mary. For more information, please call 904-868-0029. 8/18p

Animals

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

Check it out...
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Help Wanted

Notice to readers:

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

Specialized Heavy Hauler is seeking qualified drivers to work on a regional basis. Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year verifiable Class A heavy haul or step deck driving experience. Company drivers can expect to earn \$40K to \$60K annually on our percentage pay system. Visit www.arlingtonheavyhauling.com for more details or Call Gary at 904-745-5996. 7/28-8/18p

Accepting applications for lawn service. Random drug test and background. 259-2900. 8/18-25c

The YMCA of Florida's First Coast is currently recruiting a Facility Director at the Baker County Family Y. This position is responsible for the overall management and leadership of membership, program and facility operations. A successful candidate will possess a professional demeanor, strong skills in human relations, team building, leadership, verbal and written communications. A bachelor's degree and supervisory experience is required. Candidate must have the ability to develop and manage budgets; develop, promote, operate and evaluate programs and staff, and the ability to recruit, train and develop volunteers. Candidate will also need to excel in being a community liaison in building relationships and donations. This position is full-time offering a salary of \$35,000 - \$44,000 annually, based on experience. Send resumes to ycareers@firstcoastymca.org. 8/11-18c

Drivers - Teams \$6,000 Team Sign-On Bonus when your team drives for Werner Enterprises! Call Now for details! 1-888-880-5902. 8/18-9/1p

Part time position for an experienced multi-tasker in an office setting. Must have excellent people skills and references. This is an ideal opportunity for the right person. Reply via resume with references to P.O. Box 427, Macclenny, FL 32063. 8/4tfc

Drivers - Teams \$6,000 Team Sign-On Bonus when your team drives for Werner Enterprises! Call Now for details! 1-888-880-5902. 8/4-25p

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

Money to Lend

Pay Day Loan Buster, \$500 no credit check, six months to repay, active checking account required. 904-206-7861. www.mypaydayloanthatpays.com 2/10tfc

Real Estate

Notice to Readers

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

3.46 acres, north Sanderson, set up for mobile home \$42,000. Owner financing. Call 904-813-1580. 2/10tfc

3 BR, 1 1/2 BA home, in Macclenny, selling under appraised value, \$98,000. 259-2461, 483-8126. 8/18-25p

3 BR, 2 BA brick home on 1/2 acre in Glenfield Oaks, a gated community, \$140,000 net. Call 813-1580. 7/14tfc

2.5 Acres for sale, high, dry, Mud Lake Road, approximately 1/4 mile past bridge. Mobile homes okay. Asking 35K. 904-828-9392. 8/18-9/8p

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide MH, wood floors throughout, new flat range stove, new 3.5 ton central heat and air, double horse barn, fenced in, above ground pool with new liner, new deck, all on 1.61 acres, \$68,000. 259-0820. 8/18p

FSBO, rustic elegance cypress log cabin on 8.11 fenced acres. 2 BR, 2 BA 1990 SF plus porches, two car carport, great views, gated drive, private, secluded. By appointment only \$250,000. 904-259-9599. 8/11-9/1p

16x80 Mobile Home on 1.33 acres, Highway 185, just set up and remodeled, new everything, including septic, well, power, new roof, and nice porches. Country living. 15 minutes from Macclenny. Owner finance available. 259-2900. 8/18tfc

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Send a copy of the ad exactly as it should appear, payment and phone number where we can reach you.

PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063

Deadlines:

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

1-10 acres, high and dry, fish pond, creek or river front, homes/mobile homes, set-up. Owner financing. 912-843-8118 or 904-699-8637. www.landy.es.net. 6/30tfc

4 BR, 2 BA brick home on 1/2 acre in Glenfield Oaks, a gated community, \$145,000 OBO. Call 813-1580. 7/14tfc

For Rent

4 BR, 2 BA 32x80 mobile home on five acres, off Mud Lake Road on Travis Rhoden Trail. Lawn maintenance included, \$950/month, \$1250 deposit. 259-9066. 7/21tfc

3 BR, 2 BA \$150/week, \$500 deposit plus first and last week, equals total of \$800 to move in. Must have verifiable references and employment. No smoking, service animals only. 259-6033. 8/18p

3 BR, 2 BA singlewide, 2 miles inside Georgia line, \$500/month, \$500 deposit, 904-629-1779. 8/18tfc

4 BR, 2 BA mobile home, river front, \$850/month, 813-3091. 8/11tfc

2 BR apartments, quiet, established neighborhood, service animals only. \$550/month, \$500 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent to qualified applicants. 259-8444. 8/4tfc

3 BR, 2 BA singlewide, 1 acre, very clean, new carpet, \$700/month, \$700 deposit. 509-2280. 8/18p

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home in Sanderson, large lot, \$650/month plus \$200 deposit, 275-2136, 881-4311. 8/18p

3 BR, 2 BA fenced in yard, city water and trash pick-up, central heat and air, 571-9228. Move in special. 8/11-18p

4 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 2 acres in Raiford, \$850/month, \$500 deposit, call Mike at 904-626-5721. 8/18-25p

Share new house \$300/month includes electric, water, cable, and internet 904-735-4304 leave message. 7/28-8/18p

2 BR, 1 BA in city, central H/A, \$425/month, 813-5472. 8/18p

Mobile home in Sanderson, 3 BR, 2 BA, \$750 security deposit, \$750/month. Call 904-259-2255 or 904-813-1580. 5/12tfc

2 BR, 1 BA brick home, lawn fenced city lot, washer/dryer, \$800/month, \$500 deposit, 661 Laverne Street Call 813-5558. 8/11-18p

4 BR, 2 BA house, leave with option to buy or rent. Monarch Realty 476-0402. 8/18p

2 BR, 1 BA mobile home in Cozy Corners, \$545/month, first, last and \$300 deposit. Water, trash and lawn service included, central H/A. 259-7335. 4/7tfc

3 BR, 2 BA house, \$800/month, first, last and security. 259-2563. 8/18tfc

4 BR, 2 BA house, lease with option to buy or rent. Monarch Realty. 476-0402. 8/18p

3 BR, 1 BA singlewide Fleetwood on one acre fenced land, Noah Davis Road in Glen St. Mary. Non-smokers only, \$650/month, \$650 deposit. 904-275-2800, 904-945-0523. 8/18-25p

Mobile home for rent in Maxville, 3 BR, 2 BA, on an acre, central H/A, washer/dryer hookup. \$625/month plus deposit. 289-7784, 591-1763. 8/18p

2 or 3 BR mobile home \$385-\$550; half acre, garbage, water, sewer, lawn provided, family neighborhood. 912-843-8118 or 904-699-8637. www.rentyes.net. 6/30tfc

3 BR, 3 BA, 2600 SF, former model home with 2 huge bonus rooms on a fenced corner lot. Available October 1st. \$1400/month plus security deposit. 904-397-0053. 8/18p

2 BR, 2 BA mobile home, central H/A in Georgia Bend, \$450/month, \$300 deposit. Serious inquires only. 912-843-8129. Leave message for Frank. 8/18-25p



YARD SALES

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 8:00 am-?, Small Branch Trail across from Cuyler Field on 125. Moving sale, everything must go.

Friday 8:00 am-?, Huge Yard Sale, 9413 N. CR229 Sanderson; love seat, toys, Christmas items, women's shoes (new in boxes), wedding dresses, veil, other wedding items, 2000 Kia Sportage \$500 OBO, lots of other items. Don't like my prices, make offer. Turn on 229 North over railroad tracks past Country Federal Credit Union, tenth house on right.

Friday 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Estate Sale; Copper Creek, 962-3800; Household contents, furniture, lamps, mirrors, armoire, bar, rugs, much more.

Friday and Saturday 7:00 am-1:00 pm, Big yard sale, 7349 W. Madison Street, Glen St. Mary, 259-6099.

Friday and Saturday 8:00 am-12:00 pm, Mud Lake Road to L.E. Harvey to Briarbush Lane, kids clothes, kids camouflage, household items, etc.

Saturday 7:00 am-?, Multi-family yard sale, 291 Owens Acres Drive, Macclenny address.

Saturday 8:00 am-?, 125 S. 5th street, Highway 228, Macclenny. Fashion jewelry, dollar sidewalk sale.

Saturday 8:00 am-?, behind Fastway on Woodlawn. A little of everything.

Saturday 8:00 am-?, 12798 N. State Road 121.

Commercial Rental

Commercial offices and metal building in downtown Macclenny. 1) 500 sq ft, \$500/mo, 2) 1280 sq ft, \$1300/mo, 3) metal building with 400 amp 3ph electric serv, 5000 sq ft, \$800/mo. Deposit equal to first month's rent required. 259-6546 or 259-4602. 6/23tfc

Mobile Homes

New homes, no money down, call (386) 719-6578, Cliff, for qualifying. 7/7-8/25c

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The location for this class will be given to those who register in advance by calling the regional office at 386-758-0525 or going to www.MyFWC.com/Hunter-Safety. All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult must accompany children under the age of 16 at all times. People born on or after June 1, 1975 must complete the hunter safety course before purchasing a Florida hunting license. The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces. Register online and obtain information about future hunter safety classes at www.myfwc.com/HunterSafety or by calling the FWC's regional office in Lake City at 386-758-0525.

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Faith-filled teen bull rider finishes 5th in national rodeo despite injuries on first ride

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

Bulls have tried to kill him. He's had to crawl out of the rodeo ring after a ride. He's had toes broken, bruised ribs and kept going. And Brandon Tuten of Sanderson is only in his first full year of competition in high school bull riding.

Tuten, 17, whose friends call him "Boar Hog," has been riding bulls since he was 11. But this has been his breakout year. He won the state high school championship and placed fifth in the National High School Rodeo Association competition this month in Gillette, Wyoming.

Like a moth to the flame, Tuten is drawn to the dangerous bulls. "I've always been interested in bull riding," he says. "My dream is to be in the PBR (Professional Bull Riders)."

This very religious teen, a senior at Baker County High School, prays with his family before each ride. With his list of injuries it's not surprising. He's broken, cut, bruised or sprained just about every body part capable of injury, but he's philosophical about it. "I just love it. I'm in Jesus' hands," he said.

For Tuten, bull riding is a family affair. His dad Chris Blue stays in the chute with him and tightens the rope around his gloved hands. His mother Judy sits in the stands, a nervous wreck. His little sister Jaden is his "biggest fan."

"My family sees in me what nobody else did," said Tuten. He also firmly believes that his success has come from above. "The Lord has given me a lot and I owe it all to Him," he says.

There are 17 rodeos in the typical season, culminating in the state championship. This year, his first in serious competition, Tuten won the state title and qualified for the national finals.

After he and his family did a lot of fund raising, they were off to Gillette. But "Boar Hog" was in for a huge challenge when he got to Wyoming, alongside 170 bull riders from around the world.

The national finals also attract



Brandon Tuten competes in the Florida High School Rodeo Association finals earlier this year. PHOTO MIKE RASTELLI PHOTOGRAPHY

high-quality bulls, which Tuten described as "a step below those used in the PBR."

The teen got a taste of how dangerous a national finals bull is in his first ride in the competition. The animal went crazy in the chute, pinning him against the gates, breaking two toes and bruising four ribs.

He was awarded a re-ride, but unable to walk, he was literally carried out and set on the bull. "It was probably my most memorable ride," said Tuten. "After all that I managed to get 80 points.

After it was over I had to crawl out of the ring."

He doesn't let a bull get the best of him. He rode a bull that once bruised five of his ribs. He met the same bull last weekend in a competition and rode him for 89 points.

Brandon's performances at the finals caught the attention of PBR legend Tuff Hedeman, a three-time world champion and one of Tuten's heroes. He met Hedeman, who is featured in the movie *8 Seconds*, along with current stars Justin McBride and Chris Shivers.

The success has just spurred the young cowboy on to get better

before the next season starts. He plans to continue competing and hopefully return to the finals next summer in Casper, Wyoming.

Despite his success, Tuten is very humble when talking about his sport. "I just want to thank my savior Jesus and everyone who has helped and supported me," he said.

If this was what he can accomplish in one season of bull riding, we might be hearing about "Boar Hog" for some time to come.

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Coach impressed by summer league results

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

As the school year gets closer and closer, summer workouts come to an end. For the BCHS basketball team it has been a very successful summer. The Cats went to camp in Tallahassee and then played a 10 game "season" in the Trinity Summer League.

The Cats went 6-4 in the summer league, but Coach Charles Ruise is convinced that they should really be 7-3.

"We played a nail-biter, three-overtime game against Eagle's View," said Ruise. "We really should have won that one."

Ruise is a normally optimistic person, but you can see the glint in his eye as he talks about the summer workouts.

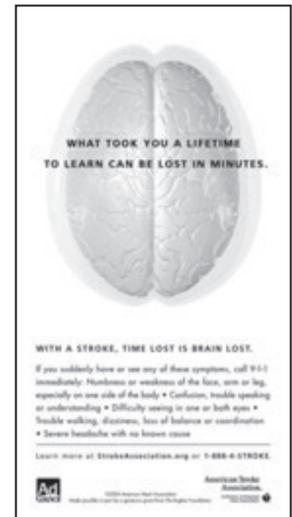
"We made a lot of progress this summer," said Ruise. "I am really looking forward to the start of the season."

Ruise was particularly encouraged by Darrell "DJ" Johnson, who excelled from the forward position. Sean Fogarty has shown a lot of improvement from the center position. Point guard Jessie Gardiner showed a lot of leadership and Landon Mitchell and Charles "Stookie" Ruise Jr.

should provide a lot of offense. Ruise is a freshman who can really shoot the ball.

"We had kids who arrived committed to coming into this summer and improving," said Ruise. "They are stronger physically and mentally."

Ruise continues to work on conditioning and toughness as they get ready for the basketball season later this fall.



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Conference shifting, Bear gets field time

FAT LADY

ROBERT GERARD

Maybe by the time you read this the SEC will be larger by two teams. One team is doing its best to worm its way into the conference, but who knows who the second team might be. It could be nothing will happen.

Texas A&M wants out of the Big 12. The Big 12 wants to keep Texas A&M at all costs. The SEC is keeping its mouth shut.

A&M is bolting because of money. Arch rival Texas recently signed a 20-year, \$300 million deal with ESPN to broadcast the Longhorn Network. The Aggies want no part of a Big 12 under the umbrella of Texas.

Nebraska and Colorado bolted at the end of last season. Missouri wanted to move to the Big 10, but they declined. Oklahoma, the other powerhouse besides Texas, isn't going anywhere.

So A&M told the SEC they want in. But that would bring the most competitive conference in the USA needing another team. The addition of the Aggies would give the SEC 13 teams and assuming that they would join the West division that would leave the East needing a new member.

Thus the rumor mill goes crazy.

Here's the craziest rumor. FSU bolts the ACC and joins the SEC.

FSU has denied it and denied it again, but the blogs and

SEC Facebook pages keep up the claims that the Seminoles are headed to the SEC.

Not gonna happen folks. Let the stinking Aggies join the SEC (can you tell that as a former Baylor Bear I have no love for the Aggies and their girlfriends the Haggies). FSU is staying put.

Bear Woods of Macclenny put in some good field time against the Miami Dolphins this weekend for the Atlanta Falcons. Bear was always around the football and played with a lot of intensity.

That's not surprising to fans of Woods as a Wildcat and at Troy University. You could count on him for intensity.

The Falcon blogs were all complimentary. Though Woods is listed as No. 4 on the depth chart at middle linebacker, if he continues to play well, particularly this Friday against the Jaguars in Jacksonville, he could move up the list.

Curtis Lofton is the starter, with Coy Wire coming off the bench and Akeem Dent third on the depth chart. There will be a lot of fans watching this weekend.

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