



**Driver dies after
flipping truck on
Fred Harvey Road**

See page 6



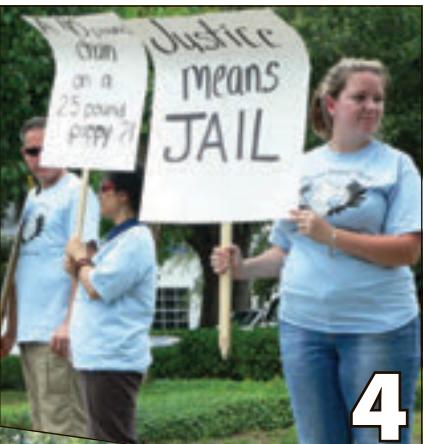
THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

82nd Year, Vol. 35 • Winner of 7 state awards for journalism excellence in 2010

75¢

DECEMBER 29, 2011 THURSDAY

Hindsight 2011: top stories of the year



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON AND JIM MCGAULEY
1: Parents of the late Rashard Belford, Bo and Diane Belford, mourn during a candlelight vigil held the day after their son's death last April. 2: The BCHS weightlifting team and coaches with their class 1A state championship medals in Kissimmee, FL the same month. 3: One of the county's largest trees, a magnolia in Taylor, was featured in *The Press'* for a story about the county's lack of a Florida Champion tree. The story led to the identification of a champion tree in July, a 125-foot-tall Swamp Chestnut Oak located in Glen St. Mary. 4: Animal rights protesters at the courthouse for the sentencing hearing of Cletus Gaskins, who received probation for dog fighting-related charges in April. 5: The scene of a 187-acre brush fire south of Macclenny in June. 6: The semi-truck that killed a NEFSH patient on S. SR 121 after the patient fled the facility on foot last August. 7: Residents protesting a judge's ruling to award custody of Miranda Wilkerson to a registered sex offender in July. 8: Float from the Sesquicentennial parade in September. 9: Law enforcement officers serve a search warrant at Dr. Scarborough's office in September. 10: Drug task force investigators with cocaine seized during a multi-agency, multi-state investigation that ended with the indictment of two Baker County men on federal drug



Doctor license suspension

Events that most captured the attention of Baker County during 2011 were the raid on the office of a Macclenny physician suspected as being a "pill doctor" and the subsequent pulling of his license to practice by the state.

As the year ends, the fate of Dr. Charles Scarborough is still up in the air as the Department of Health in Tallahassee has yet to set an administrative hearing into allegations of abusing



Investigator Hardin posts the closure notice.

his license to prescribe controlled narcotics.

The physician, believed to be in his late 70s, had practiced for several years in an office at the corner of South 5th and Railroad Sts., and allegations surrounding the dispensing of habit forming drugs grew more numerous in recent years.

Over the course of a weekday, dozens of vehicles converged on the cor-

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Crime: shooting, rundown

The past year brought with it the usual line-up of property and personal crimes, many of them domestic in nature, but here's a look at 2011's top stories in the crime, punishment and court areas.

A 21-member newly seated grand jury in July decided that Frank (Doug) Kilgo, 55, of Macclenny shot and killed Joshua (Brandon) Fish, 26, in self-defense the afternoon of June 18.

Mr. Kilgo called police after the shooting that he said took place as he sat poolside at the

residence of his girlfriend Debbie Fish on Fern St. in the northwest city.

The victim is Ms. Fish's son and had been involved in previous altercations with Mr. Kilgo, two of which resulted in severe beatings. The two had a verbal altercation earlier that day.

Mr. Kilgo said he fired a sin-



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN
The Rev. Tommy Rollins places Rashard's photo on the memorial.

gle shot from a .357 pistol that struck Mr. Fish as he came over a pool fence at him.

• Michael Washington, 19, of Macclenny remains in county jail as the year ends, charged with second degree murder of Rashad Belford, 18,

See page 2»

Economy: stagnant, layoffs

There were few signs that the local economy did any better this year than last.

Baker County's jobless rate dipped slightly, falling from 11.6 percent last January to 10.3 percent in November, according to Local Area Unemployment Statistics released December 16 by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON
County commissioners during workshop on EMS fees.

overnment.

First came at least 70 layoffs at Northeast Florida State Hospital [NEFSH], though other estimates put the total number of job losses at more than 100.

Regardless, the negative economic impact would be substantial. It is estimated that NEFSH generates more than 16 percent of the county's total gross product.

The layoffs were effective June 30, the last day of the state fiscal year. They were the result of funding cuts by the Florida

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Schools: 3rd graders tie for 2nd

Many Baker County students made headlines this year for both athletic and academic pursuits.

• In May, third graders at Macclenny and Westside Elementary schools made history by tying with students in St. Johns County for the second highest FCAT reading scores in the state. Academically, St. Johns is one of the best performing districts in the state.

Among the county's 380 third graders who took the reading FCAT, eight percent scored 5s, the highest score possible.

• Students at Baker High also performed well on the annual standardized tests used by the Florida Department of Education to gauge learning gains and evaluate and compare different schools and school districts.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Third graders at Macclenny Elementary after FCAT scores were announced.

BCHS bumped up the percentage of students scoring proficient — defined as a 3 or higher — on the math and reading tests compared to the previous year.

See page 2»

Deputies uncover two meth labs, arrest three men

See page 6

bakercountypress.com

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

What kind of year did you have?

18.9% Great start to the decade

21.6% Better than 2010

32.4% Worse than 2010

27% Can it get any worse?

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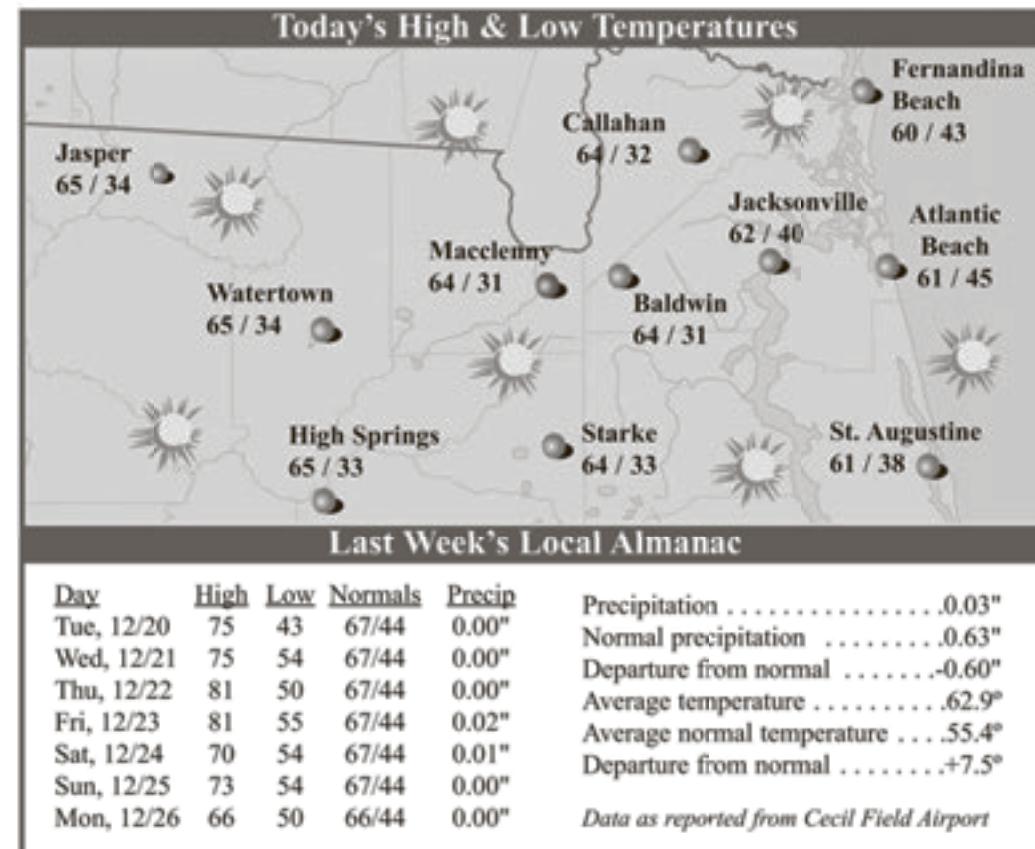
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The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast



Thursday
Sunny
High: 64 Low: 31
Friday
Sunny
High: 70 Low: 37
Saturday
Sunny
High: 71 Low: 41
Sunday
Sunny
High: 71 Low: 42
Monday
Sunny
High: 66 Low: 39
Tuesday
Mostly Sunny
High: 61 Low: 35
Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 65 Low: 41



Sun/Moon Chart This Week

First
1/1Full
1/9Last
1/16New
1/23

St. Mary's River Levels

	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	4.89 ft.	-0.01 ft.
Macclenny	1.80 ft.	-0.02 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Peak Times

Day AM PM

Thu 3:34-5:34 3:04-5:04

Fri 4:17-6:17 3:47-5:47

Sat 4:59-6:59 4:29-6:29

Sun — 6:04-8:04

Mon 5:56-7:56 6:48-8:48

Tue 6:41-8:41 7:33-9:33

Wed 7:27-9:27 8:21-10:21

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather History

Dec. 29, 1830 - A very heavy snowstorm ushered in the "winter of the deep snow". The storm produced 30 inches of snow at Peoria, Ill. and 36 inches at Kansas City, Mo. The snow continued until the middle of February, causing great suffering among pioneers.

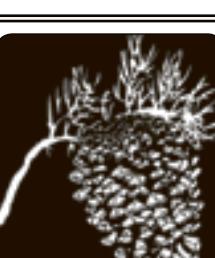
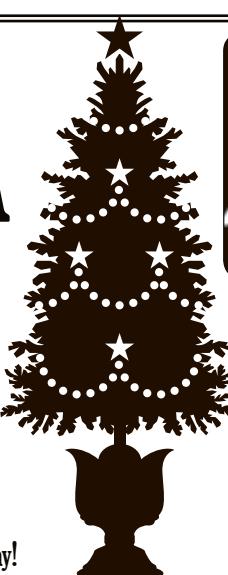
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Crime: rundown of BCHS student

From page 1

on a west city street corner the evening of April 11.

Mr. Washington was allegedly at the wheel of a car that ran over the victim, who had since childhood severe physical impairments of the right arm and leg. The assailant was reportedly aiming at someone else as a crowd gathered at the corner of MLK Dr. and Minnesota during a larger disturbance.

Mr. Belford was due to graduate from Baker County High School later in the spring, and the state filed multiple other counts against Mr. Washington, whose bail was set at \$1.6 million.

Friends of Mr. Belford established a monument at the scene later in the year. It was dedicated last September.

The ceremony opened with a flag procession conducted by members of the Baker County High School Air Force JROTC and included the passing of a torch by Rashard's fellow classmates. It concluded with the unveiling of a special granite memorial which bears his likeness.

Many community leaders spoke during the ceremony, including schools Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson, Sheriff Joey Dopsom, school administrators and teachers, local area pastors, city and county administrators and local business owners.

City manager Gerald Dobson said, "It's up to us to make sure his legacy lives forever and the message [Mr. Belford] would want passed on if he were still here would be for everyone to exist in peace, unity, love and understanding."

A circuit judge sentenced Ryan Phillips, 26, of Sanderson to 45 years in prison for two home invasion robberies that occurred in July of 2010.

Mr. Phillips, a convicted felon with a lengthy arrest record and drug and alcohol addictions who was released from prison in

2008, pleaded to multiple charges including the severe beating of Sam and Mildred Anger when he forced his way into their home on Fred Harvey Rd.

Mr. Anger has Alzheimer's Disease, and a neurologist said the beating accelerated the progress of the condition.

The defendant also entered the residence of Regina Williamson and stole money after assaulting her. He later claimed to have no recollection of the events because he was on a two-day binge and said he did so to get more money for drugs and liquor.

A tip to officials at Baker County Middle School by one of the victims in late October led to the arrest of Troy Edward Howell, 29, at his residence off Crews Rd. north of Glen St. Mary for child abuse and running a marijuana farm.

Mr. Howell allegedly kept the student, a 13-year-old niece, and two nephews, ages 15 and 18, at his trailer in unsafe and abusive conditions. The older boy told police he was confined to a bedroom and at times chained by the neck to an axle under the floor.

The compound where he kept the children consisted of two trailers — the second one was for growing marijuana indoors — surrounded by electric fences and an infrared surveillance system.

Nine pounds of processed pot and 96 plants were seized. The children's mother and grandmother, who live in Ohio, said they were "shocked" to learn of their treatment at the hands of Mr. Howell.

In addition to the marijuana growing charge, he is in county jail without bond charged with battery, aggravated battery, aggravated child abuse, false imprisonment and child neglect.

Helicopter fly-overs in July and August resulted in the arrest of several more persons for

operating pot farms in north and north-central Baker County.

Nathan Perrett, 57, had six pounds of processed marijuana and 189 plants up to five feet tall growing on his 34-acre spread off Folsom Rd. Police from several agencies found also a concealed room off a barn that appeared to be under construction as an indoor growing area.

Cornelius Ruise Jr., 43, was arrested after he was spotted from the air tending to pot plants on a tract near his Margaretta residence on Ruise Lane. Seventeen plants were found in a shed and Mr. Ruise destroyed several more as he fled down a road after spotting the helicopter.

A total of 17 plants either growing or being processed were seized from the property of David Henry Bradley on a one-acre tract off Bradley Trail north of Glen. He later turned himself in.

Tommy Fish, 52, was charged with cultivating pot after 65 plants were spotted at his residence off CR 127 in the north county. He claimed they belonged to his son Brandon, who was killed by Mr. Kilgo on June 18.

Two Baker County men were fingered as part of a cocaine distribution ring that operated for about a year ending in April between Mexico and Jacksonville.

John Christopher Townsend, 39, and Doyle Hardenbrook, 44, were among nine persons charged by the federal government with conspiracy to sell; the

others are from Georgia and Texas and Jacksonville.

The US Attorney's office announced in November that at least 160 kilograms of coke made its way here from Mexico, translating into about \$4 million in proceeds.

Federal agents seized about \$600,000, some \$285,000 from the local defendants. Mr. Townsend and five others pleaded guilty. Both men have conviction records for growing and selling marijuana.

The most dramatic increase came in the FCAT writing scores administered to sophomores. The percentage of 10th graders scoring at least a 4 on the assessment rose 14 percent, from 64 to

Schools: testing...

From page 1

ous year's results. On the FCAT math exam, taken by 10th graders only, the share of proficient students rose 5 percent.

The percentage of freshmen scoring a 3 or higher on the more rigorous reading test rose 2 percent and the share of sophomores doing so jumped 8 percent.

Even after what the team felt were less than perfect preliminary performances the day of the competition, anxiety turned to jubilation when the girls were later declared the 2011 state champions.

78 percent, and those scoring a 3 or better jumped by 4 percent.

The Baker High squad, coached by Deidre Carrington, defeated 14 other schools to clinch the Florida High School Athletic Association State Championship in competitive cheerleading last February.

The most dramatic increase came in the FCAT writing scores administered to sophomores. The percentage of 10th graders scoring at least a 4 on the assessment rose 14 percent, from 64 to

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Baker County Courthouse,
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& Administration offices
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January 2.

Have a safe & Happy New Year!



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

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

Closing in on the 'pill doc': Top Story

For my money, the News Story of the Year in 2011 was the closing down of Dr. Charles Scarborough's Macclenny office in October.

Mind you, none of the allegations that this amiable physician grossly abused his obligations under Florida law have been proven. Those allegations include that he allowed untrained and unqualified office clerks to write prescriptions for narcotics, that he signed blank prescription orders and he failed to examine patients before allowing them to leave with addictive drugs, among others.

There's still a process here. The Department of Health made the allegations as cause for temporary suspension of his license to practice. Dr. Scarborough has requested a hearing, presumably to give his side.

We'll see, but between you and me, he's in trouble.

Because the newspaper office is catty-corner (is that still a word?) from the doctor's office, we had a front row seat, so to speak, and witnessed as the years went by a growing stream of patients lining up early in the morning and staying until past sundown waiting to see the doc.

From what we now hear alleged, maybe a lot of them weren't, in fact, seeing the doc. They were, however, apparently getting the pills they sought. And they kept coming back for more.

Because 5th St. is heavily traveled from the interstate into downtown, we weren't the only ones noticing. It became a mantra, so to speak. *When is someone going to do something about the pill mill?*

Sheriff Joey Dobson remarked earlier this year he kept hearing it too, and he was inclined to respond the same way many did. If Dr. Scarborough is legally prescribing addictive drugs, what law is being violated?

The sheriff's no fool, and he's got the same calendars we have

IMPRESSIONS Jim McGauley

that clearly show 2012 is an election year. His investigators about mid-year began collecting statements and other data suggesting that what was going on in that office may not

be legal at all.

Some of that information, it turns out, will never be admissible in court, but it was sufficient to get the ball rolling. The FDLE [Florida Department of Law Enforcement] was called in, and it has people who can find their way around the guts of computers for evidence of prescription

fraud. Armed with a warrant this time, agents swooped into the office and seized 11 computers and their data.

That, and other statements made by ex-employees and relatives, was in turn sufficient for the state to order the license suspension — and that's where we are today.

The office is closed, no more long lines of patients — many of them waiting for hours — and the state now is on the same wave length as pharmacies in Baker County that have known for years what was going on. The "favored" pharmacy, as noted by a sign in Dr. Scarborough's front

office, closed two weeks ago.

The sheriff's department was reluctant to confirm for attribution a remark made two weeks ago by a man arrested for driving what was called a "mobile meth lab."

He declared, according to two sources, that the methamphetamine business, so to speak, is booming in the wake of Dr. Scarborough's office closing. I'm no expert, but if this guy is to be believed, the jump from Oxycontin and Xanax to meth is a giant leap indeed.

And a very scary one, considering the speed with which meth ravages the body and the health

problems it causes, not to mention the crimes committed by addicts to keep things going.

Scary indeed.

For the meantime, though, this development's significance as my Top News Story is because, first, the office is no longer operating and, second, its closing makes it very unlikely a similar operation will pop up here.

Whether we've traded Xanax for methamphetamine in the process, and further compounded the scourge of addiction in Baker County, well, that's something we'll just have to see.

Let's hope it's not next year's Top News Story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mom offers advice to stem tide of teen births

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this in response to the article regarding Baker County leading Florida in teen births. I am the mother of two adult daughters and feel I have some experience with the subject.

I understand we live in a small county with a variety of beliefs and some may not agree, but I believe that the dreaded "birds and bees" should start at home. My husband and I wanted our children to keep an open line of communication with us.

"Sex" was not a taboo word in our household.

Talk to your children and answer their questions. It's inevitable they're going to hear about it anyway. We did not initiate the subject, but when they brought it up we answered them as openly and honestly as possible.

Using the correct terminology is also important, though a bit challenging at times. Refer to boys and girls as "puzzle pieces" then continue from there.

Talking about contraceptives is equally important. At the conclusion of every conversation I always reminded them of the consequences of sex.

I was considered "one of those girls" and had my first daughter at age 17. Being scared and uncomfortable talking with my mother about sex and birth control played a big role in my early pregnancy.

Neither of our daughters have children; one has a bachelor's degree and the other is in college. They are both working on their futures with the best intentions of having a family, including children, when the time is right.

This may not be right for everyone, but it worked for our family.

Barbara (and Wayne) Gueltzow
Macclenny

Almost curtain time for Baker County, Fla.

Coming up in just a couple of weeks is our Sesquicentennial production *Baker County, Fla.: 1861-1961*. It is one of the biggest productions I've ever worked on, and certainly the longest to put together.

I'm very excited about it and a little nervous. As we rehearsed it before Christmas, I got this insight. People tend to believe what they see, so for most folks this will be how they perceive the 100-year period in Baker County's history. That's a lot of added pressure.

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER ROBERT GERARD

I thought I might take this week's column and discuss how I put the play together. It's been quite an experience.

Most of the time half my work is done for me by the playwright.

I just pick up the script and go to work on it.

Not so, this show. I started in April with a blank page for a script and lots and lots of reading to do.

Like almost everyone else, my knowledge of Baker County history was pretty limited. I knew what everyone does — the Battle

of Olustee and the moonshine "industry" of the 40s and 50s. That was it. What happened in between was a blank slate.

I went to the wonderful Baker County Historical Society website, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbakehs/ and started reading the articles and columns of Gene Barber and others. They didn't always agree, sometimes on some pretty important stuff, but it was always interesting.

Searching the web, the Baker County Historical Society and personal narratives also helped fill in the blanks.

I made a time line and sat down to write.

Most of what I put down was word for word from letters, dispatches, and newspaper articles. Some things — though a lot less than you'd think — I had to invent based on the historical events. I tried not to "put words into characters' mouths," but this is, after all, drama and entertainment and whatever was put in the script had to fulfill two basic purposes — it had to be accurate and it had to be entertaining.

I've seen bad historical fiction and did not want *Baker County, Fla.* to fall into that category. I wanted people to come away knowing more than they ever did about this county, but also to enjoy the journey.

So there is a lot of music. I didn't write any of it. It's all accurate within 10 years to the time period with the exception of two songs that just seemed to cry out to be there.

I couldn't decide on one single set to represent the 100 years, so instead I again borrowed from the historical society's treasure trove of photographs. We use

over 150 photos on a 9'X12' rear projection screen flanked by our representation of the late Gene Barber's courthouse murals.

Gene is the show's narrator. He and a cast member playing the role of *Press* publisher Jim McGauley lead us through the 100 years from *The Press* office sometime in 1977 as Jim questions Gene about his columns.

As soon as we had a script we auditioned the show in August and 82 people tried out. From that, we got a cast of around 35 of all ages from 5-70. It's very exciting working with that large of an age group. The middle and high school kids learn a lot from the community theatre actors and visa versa.

We couldn't perform the show in October like I had planned because of renovations to the BCHS auditorium. As we rehearsed, lines were re-written to be more

interesting, songs changed and scenes lengthened or shortened. It's been a long production, but now it is in its finishing stages.

Actors are in costume, props have been collected and the finishing touches are being put on the production.

Through it all the actors have been fascinated by this county's rich history and how much they didn't know about where they live. To them it seems like a play, and it is easy to forget that it is, in fact, history. The history of our county.

I hope you will come out and see our efforts. I think you'll learn a lot, be surprised by what you find out and above all, entertained.

Baker County, Fla.: 1861-1961 runs January 12-15 and January 19-21 at 7:30 pm and 2 pm on Sunday.



Facebook fans

'What you had to say ...'

ebraiting the birth of Jesus Christ! What a blessing!"

Linda Kincade: "Celebrating Jesus, the reason for the season! And spending precious moments with the family. Also watching smiles on the grands faces. Special moments and lasting memories!"

Connie Snell: "Christmas service at my church! Time with my family! SEC championship game!"

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

Thanks for support on Vision Expo

Dear Editor:

Thanks so much for your feature story in the December 1 edition of *The Press*. Our Children's Vision Expo was a real team effort, and many people in Baker County deserve our gratitude.

Marcheta Crews spearheaded the event and worked with nurses, teachers, students, bus drivers and other volunteers.

Baker Vision Care had a number of business vendors who supplied designer eyewear for the kids, and they include Marchon Eyewear, the McGee Group and A&A Optical. Firehouse Subs supplied the kids and workers with snacks, and our own family members pitched in to help as we examined more than 100 children and teens over three days.

Also, thanks to Kelley Lannigan for the wonderful article. It was a pleasure to work with her.

Baker County has always been a great place to live and work, and once again folks stepped up to provide much needed care for these children.

Mary M. Futch, OD, PA
Macclenny

Doctor license suspension

From page 1

ner starting sometimes an hour or two before it opened, and the flow of patients —many of them loitering outside for hours — continued into the evening.

Judging from the license plates on vehicles parked along Railroad and in the office parking area, most were from Baker and surrounding counties including Charlton in neighboring Georgia. Fewer, but still frequent, were vehicles from farther distant counties in Georgia like Brantley, Pierce and Echols and in Georgia, from Suwannee, Columbia and Clay.

Urged on by the Baker County sheriff's department based on statements collected by investigators from patients, pharmacies and others — and by a preponderance of pain killing and anti-anxiety drugs found on defendants and at crime scenes traced back to Dr. Scarborough's office — agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement served a search warrant.

On September 16, they seized 11 computers from the office in a hunt for incriminating evidence that prescriptions were flowing out illegally. Nothing has been released at year's end of what, if anything, a scan of the hard drives revealed.

The office closed for four days, then re-opened only to close again after Dr. Scarborough was served notice of the license suspension the morning of October

18 as patients waited to see him. It remains closed.

What the state did disclose with the suspension order, however, was damning allegations that the physician, an anesthesiologist by training, was blatantly abusing his privilege by allowing clerical help to prescribe medicine.

"Dr. Scarborough consistently acted with indifference to the health of his patients by allowing unlicensed staff to provide the vast majority of care to his patients on a repeated basis," read the 25-page order from the Florida Division of Health in Tallahassee.

He was also accused of having "a flagrant disregard" for the responsibilities expected of doctors in the state, including examination of patients during initial and subsequent office visits.

The raid and suspension opened a floodgate of letters to the newspaper and postings on its Facebook page from patients praising Dr. Scarborough for compassion and for his concern for their ailments, often when other physicians were ignoring their complaints.

The physician declined comment following both the raid and suspension.

Two former office employees and two others were arrested as part of the same investigation, based on statements made to sheriff's investigators. They are charged with illegally dispensing

drugs, fraudulently obtaining prescriptions or drug trafficking.

Their cases also pend.

- Another high-profile event that caught the public's attention — and that of the Jacksonville television media — was a ruling by Circuit Judge Phyllis Rosier in July that returned a 3-year-old child to the custody of a St. George, GA man who was married to the child's mother when she was killed in a 2007 vehicle accident.

The marital father, 50-year-old Donald Ray Coleman, is a convicted sex offender stemming from a case in 1997, which ironically was the result of a relationship with the late mother, Trista Coleman. She was 14 at the time and her mother Rita Manning, 56, consented to the relationship.

Ms. Manning launched an effort to gain custody of the child after Judge Rosier's ruling by publicizing the case in the Jacksonville television media. The story soon attracted some national attention.

The ruling is currently under appeal, even though judges are bound by law to award custody to a marital father. Mr. Coleman also has custody of three other children he had with his late wife.

An effort by Ms. Manning, who had custodial care of her granddaughter since birth, to have custody awarded to James Larkey Wilkerson as the biological father of the girl, was unsuccessful.

Economy: stagnant, layoffs

From page 1

Legislature and the state's newly-elected Governor Rick Scott.

During the legislative session, the state hospital south of Macclenny was also, once again, the target of pro-privatization lawmakers. As the session came to a close, the privatization measure failed, but budget cuts at the facility reached close to \$7 million.

"This is the largest single year cut in my tenure here," the hospital's top administrator, Joe Infantino, who began at NEFHS in July 1989, said at the time.

Now, the governor is pursuing privatization of state prison facilities, perhaps in North Florida, to cut spending in the Florida Department of Corrections' 2012-13 budget.

Two months after the NEFHS layoffs took place, an assistant county planner and housing grants coordinator for the Baker County Commission were let go.

After news broke about the impending layoffs in early August, County manager C.J. Thompson said, "In this environment, you have to re-evaluate your staffing needs and make changes where necessary."

He estimated the move would save the county \$83,777, or 3.3 percent of the \$2.5 million budget deficit the Baker County Commission faced at that time.

The board and county staff reduced the shortfall to \$2.2 million during budget deliberations, but then turned its attention to boosting revenue by broadening the tax base with new fees for emergency medical service [rescue].

That proposal stalled after the Macclenny City Commission's attorney questioned the legality of such fees. The county, in turn, sought a legal opinion from Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi's office.

It's expected in early 2012.

In other layoffs, NEFCOM, the Macclenny-based telephone and Internet company, shed a handful of employees in October.

While some of the affected workers said they weren't given much notice before being dismissed, they also weren't surprised given the state of the economy and increased competition in recent years from cable giant Comcast.

Six employees, including the phone company's former president and more recently consultant Leon (Toppy) Conner, lost their jobs, according to two of the affected employees who spoke with *The Press* after NEFCOM general manager and former county commissioner Mike Griffis said he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Then most recently, the coun-

ty health department confirmed impending job cuts there could impact about one-fifth of all its personnel.

Director Kerry Dunlavy said in mid-December that 15 to 20 of the department's 90 workers would be laid off sometime within the next 90 days.

Despite the budget woes of private and public sector employers alike, the community came together, as if often does, for a common cause — celebrating the county's 150 year history with a festival on September 24 in downtown Macclenny.

County commissioners allocated \$15,000 to the Baker County Sesquicentennial Celebration and donations from businesses and individuals, plus merchandising revenue, raised more than \$10,000 in additional funding to pull it off.

The one-day event included historical demonstrations, tours of the area's oldest homes

and buildings, tributes to Emily Taber, founder of the public library who died in November just short of 100; the late artist and historian Gene Barber and veterans, and musical entertainment.

The festival was orchestrated by a planning committee of more than 20 community volunteers.

The committee met for more than six months prior to the celebration and involved various segments of the community including students, churches, non-profit organizations like the Baker County Historical Society and many others.

Several weeks after the Sesquicentennial, the committee's treasurer estimated there would be about \$2500 left after all the bills were paid.

Organizers characterized the well-attended Sesquicentennial as an unqualified success, but couldn't say whether another similar event, in high demand, could be pulled off in 2012.



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Alleged lewd acts with teen

JOEL ADDINGTON

NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

A 19-year-old Macclenny man faces a felony charge of lewd and lascivious conduct with a 15-year-old female as the result of his consensual sexual relationship with the teenager from Sanderson.

The teen's father reported the relationship to the sheriff's department in November after his wife and the teen's mother came home and found the man hiding in her bedroom, police records show.

The father told sheriff's investigators he warned the male to stay away from his daughter and attempted to end the relationship by speaking with the youth's father.

After questioning the 15-year-old, who admitted she had sex willingly with the male multiple times during their nearly year-long relationship, sheriff's sex crimes investigator Traci Benton filed the felony charge against the male with the State Attorney's Office on December 13.

The 19-year-old was not arrested and no warrant was issued for his arrest. When he arrived at the sheriff's office to be interviewed, he soon asked to consult an attorney before answering questions and no interview took place, Inv. Benton's report notes.

Under Florida law, lewd and lascivious conduct includes sexual acts by a person 18 years or older with a person between 12 and 16 years old, regardless of whether the sexual acts are consensual.

The charge is a second degree felony and punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

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Three arrests as deputies find two more meth labs

County deputies broke up two more methamphetamine labs the week of Christmas, one in an east Macclenny camper trailer and a second at a burned out residence north of Glen St. Mary.

The arrest of Randy Michael, 36, of Macclenny on an outstanding warrant the evening of December 19 led police to the camper he had been staying in since October on Deerwood Circle in the east city.

There deputies found evidence of a crude meth cooking lab, including small aluminum foil pieces containing smoked residue strewn about the yard. The interior had a strong chemical odor common to labs.

According to Investigator Mike Hauge, who handles drug cases, Mr. Michael admitted he had been "cooking" meth for four days prior to arrest. The camper is owned by Erol Carter, who allowed police inside where they found ingredients and items used to make the powerful drug.

Those include muriatic acid, lye, batteries, coffee filters, plastic 2-liter bottles, hoses, bottled fuel and a hair dryer, among other items.

Mr. Carter, who police contend is among several persons involved in the local meth manufacture and sales effort, was arrested by Deputy Matt Yarbrough shortly after he left CVS Pharmacy about 10 pm.

He was a passenger in a Chevrolet Camaro stopped near US 90 and West Boulevard, and the officer saw him take possession of a plastic shopping bag after Timothy Kenny, 30, of Macclenny brought it out of the store.

The bag seized from the Camaro contained pseudoephedrine, an over-the-counter cold medicine and key meth ingredient, two AA batteries and a small syringe. Mr. Carter was interviewed at county jail the next day and admitted to making the drug in the camper trailer where he had been living with a roommate identified as Marlene Merritt.

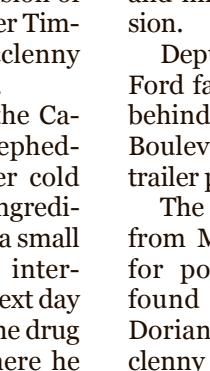
Mr. Kenny, identified via a registry kept at CVS, admitted he purchased the items at CVS for Mr. Carter, but said he thought they were for an ill family mem-



Randy Michael



Daniel Bell



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CIRCUIT COURT

Dog fighter gets probation

The second of two defendants in a dog fighting case was sentenced on December 20 to five years on probation, the same sentence handed down in April to a Sanderson man who pleaded earlier to fighting or baiting animals and animal cruelty.

Omar Aldridge, 31, of Starke withdrew a plea of no contest last spring, saying he did not fully understand the sentencing agreement. He re-entered the plea last week to both third-degree felonies.

As on the earlier sentencing date, a handful of animal rights supporters picketed in front of the county courthouse before the afternoon hearing.

Circuit Judge Phyllis Rosier imposed on Mr. Aldridge provisions similar to his co-defendant Cletus Gaskins, 39, who was found by county deputies the night of April 3, 2010 at a residence off Circle G. Lane north of Sanderson in possession of a badly mauled pit bulldog.

In addition to paying nearly \$6000 in veterinary and boarding bills, both defendants are banned from having animals, they cannot have contact with each other, and they must do 100 hours of community service, half of them speaking on the dangers of dog fighting.

He must also pen a letter of apology to the Baker County animal control department.

Mr. Aldridge, who has no police record other than minor traffic violations, was also originally charged with child abuse for abandoning his 4-year-old son at the scene. The state dropped that count in the plea agreement.

He was represented at taxpayer expense by Ray Cauthon and, as in the earlier case, the prose-

cutor was Geoffrey Fleck, a vocal advocate against animal abuse.

Animal rights supporters, most of them from outside Florida, besieged Judge Rosier in letters contained in the court file to send both defendants to prison. Many of them pointed out the connection between animal fighting and other crimes like gambling, drugs and abuse of fellow human beings.

Only two of the 13 pits seized by police that night survived, and they were successfully adopted. The raid turned up evidence of fighting rings and other signs that a wooded area behind a residence was regularly used for dog fights.

County deputy Larry Clark went to the address that night to

investigate a report of people in the area with flashlights. He then confronted Mr. Gaskins and the wounded dog and noted that several others fled deeper into the woods as he approached.

He found Mr. Aldridge's young son seated on a picnic table in close proximity to a number of agitated and unchained dogs. The father eventually returned to the scene and was arrested as he attempted to retrieve his son from the back seat of a patrol car.

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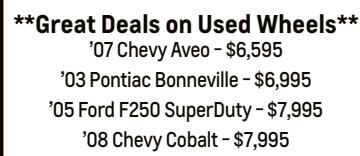
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Presidential Preference Primary Election – January 31, 2012

Primary Election – August 14, 2012

General Election – November 6, 2012

VOTER REGISTRATION BOOK CLOSING DATES

Presidential Preference Primary Election – January 3, 2012

Primary Election – July 16, 2012

General Election – October 9, 2012

EARLY VOTING DATES

Presidential Preference Primary Election:

January 21, 2012 – January 28, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Primary Election:

August 4, 2012 – August 11, 2012

General Election:

October 27, 2012 – November 3, 2012

Early Voting will be conducted in the Supervisor of Elections Office at 32 N. 5th Street, Suite A.

Nita D. Crawford
Supervisor of Elections



GLEN TOWN COUNCIL**'Also-ran' accuses mayor of swaying member's vote**

The Glen St. Mary Town Council appointed Tommie Sue Davis to fill a recently vacated seat during its regular meeting on December 20, and within minutes the runner-up for the position accused Mayor Juanice Padgett of unduly interfering with the selection.

Marie Johns, the only other person opting to fill the seat of Tracy Lamb, who resigned last month because she moved to Macclenny, claimed that the mayor showed a piece of paper with Ms. Davis' name written on it to Councilman Steve Rynehardt prior to the meeting.

The two members and others were at the time in the town hall office adjacent to the meeting room. Council members and others routinely gather in the office for conversation before the 7 pm meeting start.

Both Mayor Padgett and the councilman denied the accusation. The mayor explained later that the name was indeed handwritten on a slip of paper on her desk, but it was in reference to a telephone call earlier that day when Ms. Davis inquired whether she should attend the meeting that night.

Mr. Rynehardt said the only topic he and the mayor discussed was the pending retirement of one or both of Glen's part-time maintenance workers. The councilman indicated he might be interested in filling one of the slots since he plans to retire from the Department of Corrections.

He would have to vacate his council seat in that

event.

Mayor Padgett claimed later in the week she had kept the paper as a reminder to ask town attorney Joel Padgett if she could vote for Ms. Davis because they are next door neighbors.

Upon hearing the denials of both board members, Ms. Johns told the board she was glad she wasn't selected.

"I'm glad she [Ms. Davis] was. I don't want to be no part of a mess like this," she declared.

Ms. Johns garnered one vote during the paper balloting, that of Councilman Jack Reneau, her next door neighbor.

Attorney Foreman advised that the "neighbor" conflicts should not prevent either Ms. Padgett or Mr. Reneau from voting, nor

should the fact that one of the candidates is a distant relative of Councilman Dicky Foster.

Mr. Foreman before the vote advised state law allows such limited conflict voting in cases where a board would lack a quorum as a result.

The council's newest member is an administrative support worker at the Baker County Health Department and along with her husband owns a trucking business.

According to the résumé she submitted in response to a call for applicants, Ms. Davis has held a number of similar positions at Northeast Florida State Hospital and Fraser Hospital dating back to 1996, and during the early 1990s she owned a video store in Glen.



Councilwoman Tommie Sue Davis sworn in by attorney Joel Foreman.

Pursuit by JSO ends as car runs out of gas on interstate

Jacksonville police issued a warrant for a fleeing motorist whose vehicle ran out of gas on Interstate 10 shortly after it crossed westbound into Baker County early on December 22.

Scott Candler, 39, of Jacksonville was at the wheel of the late model Ford that did not stop when ordered by a Jacksonville officer on the westside near Cass Ave.

Instead, the suspect led police on a 20-mile chase at speeds

Sought for theft of check

Authorities are trying to identify a white female seen on a surveillance video paying for merchandise at the Macclenny Walmart in mid-December with a stolen check.

Carl Wheeler of Macclenny, a sheriff's department jail employee, said he had placed the check in his mailbox on December 11, and learned four days later it had been cashed for \$289.84. He had written it to a local church for \$100.

Deputy Matt Yarborough obtained a video from Walmart security, and Mr. Wheeler furnished a temporary Florida license number he took from a vehicle stopping at mailboxes on E. River Circle in Macclenny on December 15.

The vehicle matched the description of a newer model silver sedan the suspect entered in the Walmart parking lot. She attempted to make a second transaction that day but was turned down by a cashier.

In the video she has long brown hair wearing a hat that conceals her face and loose clothing disguising her body figure.

In other fraud reports, Stephanie Jacobs of Macclenny contacted police on December 19 after learning her American Enterprise card was used at a Walmart in California for a \$234 purchase.

Kevin Dugger of Macclenny reported on December 23 bogus charges amounting to \$472 on his Vystar card. All were made in Jacksonville.

Copper stolen at two locations

Two cases of stolen scrap metal were reported to the sheriff's department recently, both involving accumulations taken from private property.

Victor Franks said copper wiring and pipes were taken from behind his residence on Mud Lake Rd. between December 16-19. He valued the stash at \$600.

Two days earlier, Virgil Penrod called police after discovering that a 55-gallon drum with about 200 pounds of copper wire was removed from the yard of his residence on Ginny Lane north of Glen St. Mary.

He said the metal was worth \$400.

In other thefts reported recently:

- Cynthia Harris said two cam corders valued at \$900 and a \$600 computer intended to be a Christmas present were taken from her residence on Eastwood Dr. southwest of Macclenny.

She was away from the house for about an hour starting at noon on December 21. There was no sign of forced entry and there is a possible suspect.

- Johnny Allen of Macclenny said speakers, a floor jack and computer were taken from his storage garage at Gray's Mini-Storage on South 6th in Macclenny.

He valued the property at \$250 and Deputy Clements Leo noted that a lock was pried off the door to gain entry between 11 am-1:40 pm on December 23.

- Delores Stewart reported that her driver's license, a \$350 paycheck and three blank checks were taken from her residence on Altman's Way near Glen St. Mary between December 17-29.

She told Deputy Earl Lord her daughter may be responsible.

- A criminal complaint was filed alleging former tenants Robert and Leah Doyal took two doors and two garage door controls when they vacated property on North Boulevard in Macclenny.

She told Deputy Earl Lord her daughter may be responsible.

- A criminal complaint was filed alleging former tenants Robert and Leah Doyal took two doors and two garage door controls when they vacated property on North Boulevard in Macclenny.

The deputy was called to the scene of a disturbance on L'il Dixie Dr. in the north county about 5 pm and stopped Mr. Thomas as he sped from the scene in his 2006 Ford pickup.

• William Calley, 34, of Jacksonville was charged with reckless driving after his 1992 Honda was stopped by Deputy Earl Lord for driving on the wrong side of Plantation Rd. south of Glen on Christmas Eve morning.

The officer was responding about 2:20 am to a complaint that Mr. Calley was attempting to run another vehicle driven by Cheyanna Fussell, 19, of Macclenny off the road.

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ny recently.
Landlord William Pepitone of Jacksonville valued the property at \$300.

• Troy Stegall reported a section

of fence removed from his

cow pasture on Stegall Lane west of Glen St. Mary. He estimated the damage at \$275 and said the vandalism occurred December 15 or 16.

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am-1:40 pm on December 23.

Lifted bourbon from liquor store

Police arrested a Macclenny man at his SR 121 south residence the evening of December 19 after he admitted stealing a bottle of bourbon from a downtown liquor store.

Greg Barton, 27, was identified via a video surveillance when he entered Baker Beverage about 4:30 and left with two beers and the Jim Beam in a box with a commemorative hat.

Deputy Daryl Mobley stopped his accomplice, Quinton Hurst, 20, of Glen St. Mary later at the intersection of CRs 124 and 127 north of Sanderson, based on a license number recorded at the store. Mr. Hurst denied that he took the items, indicating that Mr. Barton did.

Later when questioned and informed he had been identified in the video, Mr. Barton admitted to the theft and was taken to jail charged with petty theft. The bourbon was recovered.

Trespass warrants were issued banning both men from the store.

In a second incident involving a liquor store, this one on Christmas Eve at Cuz's in Sanderson, three black male suspects damaged \$152 in cases of beer and other drinks when they fought inside the building about 10:20 pm.

Store clerk Vipulkumar Patel told Deputy Robert Aberly shots were fired outside the store after the three exited, and they drove off in a silver Ford sedan north on CR 220.

None of the eyewitnesses at the scene was forthcoming with information on the suspects' identities.

A telephoned tip shortly after led Deputy Mobley to stop a Nissan driven by a female and containing two of the suspects, ages 17 and 16. They initially declined to reveal their identities, then denied involvement.

Once they and the woman, age 35, were cleared of outstanding warrants, they were released for lack of evidence. All are from Sanderson.

Arrest for violating sex offender sanctions

A sheriff's investigator acted on a tip December 21 and arrested a Macclenny man for violating two provisions of the sex offender statute.

Christopher Jenkins, 30, was taken into custody from the residence of his wife Samantha, 21, in Dixie Trailer Park in the southwest city. Investigator Traci Benton said she inquired three times before the woman retrieved Mr. Jenkins from a rear bedroom when she went there about 1 pm.

Ms. Benton investigates sex crimes and also checks up on a list of sex offenders. She charged Mr. Jenkins for failure to register his address change and arrange to have it changed on his identification.

Mr. Jenkins likely had been residing back in Macclenny for nearly a month, the investigator said. His former registered address was as a transient on West Beaver St. in Jacksonville.

Police made other arrests the past week based on outstanding warrants:

• Deputy Earl Lord questioned Harold Moore Jr., 20, of Macclenny in connection with a disturbance on MLK Dr. on Christmas evening and learned he was

Flags down ride to hospital after accidentally shot

A Macclenny man caught a ride from a passerby to Fraser Hospital on Christmas afternoon shortly after he accidentally shot himself in the left foot while hunting for squirrels.

Rodney Brantley, 47, was walking down an embankment in a wooded area near his residence off CR 23C north of Macclenny when he fell.

Mr. Brantley told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite his .410 shotgun discharged when he attempted to catch himself.

He managed to get to the nearby roadway where he flagged down Eugene Barlow, also of Macclenny, who drove him to the hospital.

The injury is not believed to be serious.

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Scallan honored as BCMS teacher of the year for second time

KELLEY LANNIGAN

FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

Baker County Middle School's 2011 teacher of the year is Glenda Scallan, who has spent the last 34 years at the school.

It's the second time this Baker County native has been chosen for the honor.

"The first time it was a shock as well as an honor. The second time it was even more of a shock," she said laughing.

She was inspired to make teaching a career when she worked with children one summer in high school as an assistant Bible school instructor.

It wasn't surprising to her that she ended up as a teacher. Many of her family members have gone into education.

She attended University of North Florida to earn a degree in education, which included an internship at a kindergarten in Jacksonville.

"I immediately started working at the middle school in Macclenny and just never went anywhere else," she said.

To Ms. Scallan, the choice of teaching just made sense.

"It's a beautiful life for any woman," she said, "especially if you want to have a family of your own."

The passing on of knowledge is important to her, especially language arts. The thing she likes best about what she does is simply helping students master the

verbal and writing skills they need to express themselves fully. She says she is always amazed at the things her students come up with.



Glenda Scallan

Do you have any old photos of Baker County people or buildings?

We would like to use them.

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Happy New Year!

Make every day count.

2012

With gratitude and best wishes for a safe and happy new year to one and all.

Sheriff Joey Dobson and the men and women of the Baker County Sheriff's Office

2011: infant death rate drops

Teen births, mortality for men in the red zone

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

Infant mortality is known as one of the most important indicators of a community's overall health, largely because healthy babies typically grow up to be healthy adults. So news that Baker County's infant mortality rate, which had been equivalent to the rates found in some Third World countries, dropped significantly in 2010 was among the top health-related headlines of 2011.

The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of newborns who die before their first birthday per 1000 live births, dropped 38 percent — from 18.5 to 11.5 — between 2009 and 2010, the latest year for which data is available from the Florida Department of Health.

The rate was on a steady decline through 2008, before it jumped back up two years ago.

"I believe the consistent effort to educate the community about infant mortality and specifically sleep-related death causes have contributed to the decline," said Shelley Crawford, a registered nurse on the Baker County Infant Mortality Task Force formed in August, 2010 to respond to a spike in newborn fatalities in 2009.

The infant mortality rate here remained nearly twice as high as the statewide rate of 6.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 2010, however.

While local health officials were pleased about the dip in infant deaths, the county's persistently high teen birth rate, as compared to other counties and Florida as a whole, only got worse in 2010.

Late this year, 2010 birth data was released by the state showing Baker County had the highest rate of teen births in the state.

Sixty-three Baker County teenagers gave birth last year, which accounted for 18 percent of all the births in the county. That led to a teen birth rate of 78.5 — the highest in Florida.

The teen birth rate represents the number of births to females ages 15 to 19 per 1000 females of that age group. The teen birth rate statewide in 2010 was 32.8 per 1000.

The news came several months after the Baker County School Board tabled consideration of a sex education curriculum so staff could verify it did not include information about condoms or other forms of birth control.

The abstinence-based curriculum was approved unanimously

by the board May 16 with virtually no discussion, following a postponement of the measure two weeks earlier.

The approval followed criticism about the effectiveness of abstinence-based sex education programs from members of a regional task force formulating a plan to combat teen pregnancy.

After conducting focus groups with youths in the Northeast Florida, including a handful from Sanderson, the task force argued that youths want more comprehensive sex education and that a different approach to sex education may help lower the county's comparatively high rates of teen births and repeat teen births.

School district and health department officials, however, say their hands are tied by state statutes that mandate abstinence-based sex education in public schools.

Another startling health news headline came in August, when reports of a University of Washington study on the life expectancy of males and females nationwide began surfacing in the media.

Despite huge advances in health, nutrition and medicine



A group of men exercise at Anytime Fitness in Macclenny August 23.

during the last two decades, men in Baker County were dying sooner than they did in 1987, the study found.

It showed that men in Baker County lived to an average age of 68.6 years in 1987. But by 2007, the average dropped slightly to 68.1 years, shaving six months

off the average male's life span.

Baker County and Union County were two of the six locations in the United States where life expectancy among men declined during that period. La Paz County in Arizona led the pack with a 1.1-year drop in average life expectancy.

Send us letters and make sure they are signed with a phone number and city of residence.



Did you know that 2 out of 3 people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke?

Ask about the link between diabetes and heart disease and learn how the ABCs of diabetes can help you lower your risk:

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at the Baker County Health Department

Classes will be held January 5, 12, 19 & 26
from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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Baker County Health Department

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OBITUARIES

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

CONTACT US

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

**Johnny Bennett,
51, of Sanderson**

Johnny Scott Bennett, 51, of Sanderson died December 22, 2011. He was born in Lake City to the late Johnnie and Geraldine Conway Bennett on January 5, 1960. He was a life-long resident of Sanderson, a 1978 graduate of Baker County High School and was employed at InSteel Industries where he worked as a production leadman for the last 33 years.



Johnny Bennett

**Lois Bridges, 65,
of Glen St. Mary**

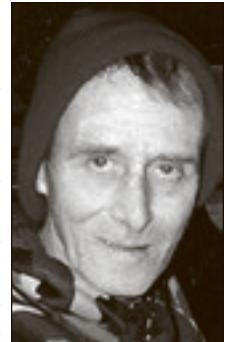
Lois Lee Bridges, 65, of Glen St. Mary died December 26, 2011. She was born in Naples to the late Gerald Chesser and Myrtle Kirkland on September 24, 1946. She was a resident of Baker County after moving from Brandon, FL in 1990 and a member of Faith Baptist Church.



Lois Bridges

**Richard Smith,
52, of Jacksonville**

Richard D. Smith, 52, of Jacksonville, died Monday, November 14, 2011. He was born January 2, 1959 in Jacksonville. He was a kind and loving man who enjoyed fishing and camping. He was an avid Florida Gator fan and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.



Richard Smith

Mr. Smith was a member of Moose Lodge 455 but spent the last few years at Moose Lodge 2412 in Macclenny. He was preceded in death by his father John D. Smith.

Survivors include mother Dorothy L. (Larry) Scott; brother Michael R. (Melanie) Smith; nephews Michael Smith, John Nugent, Jeremy Nugent, and Kyle Leach; niece Kendall (Ryan) Apelquist; his best pal and dog Pewee.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm, January 7 at the home of Don and Lucille Fraze, 10733 Small Branch Trail, Glen St. Mary with Randy and Roland Fraze officiating. Forbes Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

We print obituaries with a picture free of charge.


**In loving memory of
Daisy Mae Williams**

12/5/1932 - 12/28/2005

It has been six years since you left us. We will cherish your memories always in our hearts. We love you, Mama, but God loves you more.

LOVE,
YOUR CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN

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**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

Heartfelt thanks

We would like to express our appreciation for the love and support the Edward Jackson Brown family received during his battle with cancer and as he went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The outpouring of heartfelt sympathy from family and friends, thoughtful words, acts of kindness, your presence, your prayers and your generous gifts of food, flowers and cards have been comforting and strengthening, and we are truly grateful for these blessings.

Pastors Oral Lyons and Ronnie Moates and the Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church, we would like to thank you for your kind words and a truly beautiful service. To Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, we are grateful for your compassion while taking care of the arrangements. Words cannot fully express the gratitude we feel. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with each of you as we cherish the memories of this very special man. For the kindness you have shown in our difficult time, may God richly bless you.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 12:28

Annie Jo Moates Brown and Family

**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

**MACCLENNY
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

573 S. 5th St. 259-6059

Sunday Bible Study 9:45 am

Fellowship 10:30 am - 11:00 am

11:00 am

Wed. Bible Study

7:30 pm

Minister

Sam F. Kitching

**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.fbcosanderson.org>

THE LORD'S CHURCH

Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor .. 259-8333

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

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



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Gary Crummey-Youth Pastor

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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

Check us out on the web!
www.christianfellowshiptemple.com

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School News
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DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
CR 127 N. of Sanderson

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

Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford

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

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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

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

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Sunday Worship- 11:00 am

Evening Worship- 6:00 pm

Wednesdays

Wednesday Worship- 7:00 pm

We're located at 251 W. Ohio Ave.
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Check us out on the web!
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SOCIAL & SCHOOL

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.



Jason Nathaniel Dyer



Diane Villanueva

Aerospace masters

Lamberto and Diwata Villanueva of Macclenny are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter Diane from the University of Florida with a master of science degree in aerospace engineering.

Ms. Villanueva is currently a PhD candidate in a joint program between UF and the Ecole des Mines in Saint-Etienne, France.

She is a 2004 honors graduate from Baker County High School.

Adult ed testing

Baker County school district's career and adult education, 523 West Minnesota Avenue, will be administering the T.A.B.E. test to the public on January 5.

Registration will be at 8:45 am, testing will begin at 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The testing fee of \$20 and valid picture ID are required at the time of registration. For questions contact Wanda Conner at 259-0403.

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

A show dog's perilous road home

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Joi Hosker of Macclenny is the proud owner of a very special dog named George.

The 5-year-old plott, whose registered name is "Hosker's Georgie Boy" won the Award of Excellence in the plott hound division of the American Kennel Club/Eukanuba National Championship held in Orlando December 17.

George will also compete in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February.

Both are among the top dog shows in the country and competitors are determined through an invitational system. Ms. Hosker's dog was one of only 25 invited to be a part of the plott hound division in the AKC/Eukanuba competition and will be one of only five invited to compete in the upcoming WKC show.

"The Eukanuba show was just amazing," Ms. Hosker told *The Press* December 19. "This year there were a record-breaking 14,000 entries."

But George's road to such a high level of competition has been a rocky one that could easily have ended in tragedy.

The dog came into Ms. Hosker's life as a puppy when he was given to her by a friend.

When George was old enough, she started him in routine training to get him ready for hunting. In time, the dog showed such potential she began entering him in AKC dog shows. George did well and soon garnered enough points to earn an AKC championship ranking.

But an unfortunate turn of events almost derailed the plott from the champion path he

seemed destined for.

In November of 2009, the illness of a family member was making demands on Ms. Hosker's time and to keep George's instinct and abilities in prime shape she made arrangements with a hunter and trainer in Lake City to work with the dog temporarily. Soon after,

she received a call from the hunter informing her that George had escaped the kennel and ran away.

She began searching for her missing dog in Florida and Georgia, making countless phone calls to veterinarian offices, dog pounds and animal rescues. She contacted hunting groups and hung posters of George in Lake City. She also placed ads in magazines and online, and offered a reward.

"I did everything I could think of to locate George," she said.

She knew it was possible that George had broken out of the hunter's kennel and run away, but a nagging suspicion kept her from completely believing it.

"I was convinced the hunter had sold my dog then fabricated the story to cover it up," she said.

Months dragged by and the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOI HOSKER

Joi Hosker with George.

search for the missing dog continued. In March, 2010 a chance conversation with another hunter Ms. Hosker knew inspired her to post an ad on a website called Baydog.com.

And then a phone call changed everything. Jeremy Rhodes, a hunter in North Carolina, called to tell her he thought he had her dog.

But the joy of locating George quickly turned bleak. The dog had been injured by a bear dur-

ing a hunting trip and was in an animal hospital, not expected to survive.

Mr. Rhodes explained that he went to Baydog.com in search of a replacement dog for the injured one and saw the post. He confirmed had bought the dog from the hunter in Lake City.

The veterinarian treating George sent photo images to Ms. Hosker that same day.

"He was dehydrated, his kidney function had been affected and he had internal bleeding," said Ms. Hosker. "You could hardly see him for all of the IV tubes hooked up to him."

But a distinct patch of white on his chest was unmistakable. It was George, all right. The dog was later reunited with his owner and through her efforts he recovered.

Having George back in her life was reward enough, but the story had an even happier ending. Only six weeks after his injuries, he was back in training. Within a year he earned enough points to qualify for AKC grand championship status.

George is co-owned by Macclenny resident Josh Davis.

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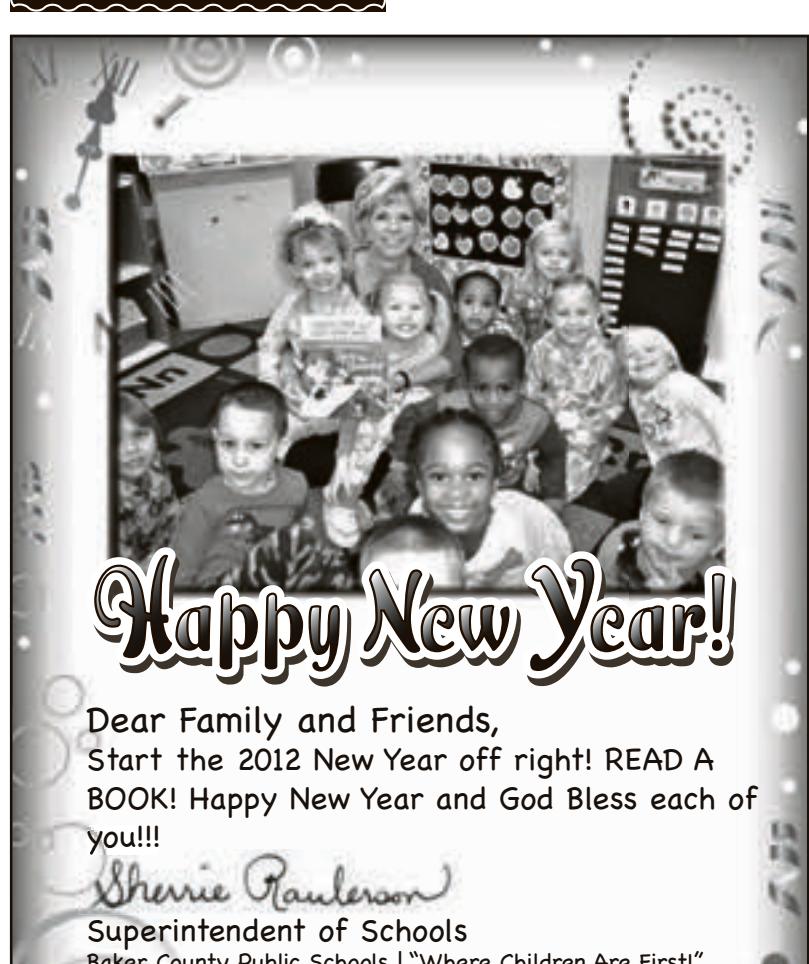
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Our Daughter
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December 29
HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
JENNIFER
We love you, Mom & Dad



Dear Family and Friends,
Start the 2012 New Year off right! READ A BOOK! Happy New Year and God Bless each of you!!!

Sherrie Rawlerson
Superintendent of Schools
Baker County Public Schools | "Where Children Are First!"

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His evangelistic ministry has reached throughout the United States, Canada, the West Indies, Europe, South Africa, India, the United Emirates as well as Australia. He has also been a guest several times on Daystar television, Guest speaker at Walls International Church in Tampa, Florida. He is married to Sheila Renee Mebane of Washington, D.C. and together they are sold out to a life of servant hood.

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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

Got Leaves? We can get them out of your way in time for your Christmas and New Years parties. Call 904-591-2640. Licensed and insured. 12/22-29c

BCHS Yearbooks and senior ads are on sale now! Yearbooks are \$80 and name plates are \$10. Order online by going to <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/> and entering job #1064. Go to BCHS website for more details. We will be accepting Senior Ads until the beginning of February. Please call Brynnie Volner, room 627 or email bpayne@baker.k12.fl.us for more details. Information is on the BCHS website under "2011/2012 Yearbooks". 12/29/15c

Seasoned oak firewood, standard size pick-up load \$100, can deliver for additional \$25, Call 653-1149. 12/22/12p

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

Remodeling sale: Tan leather dual recliner couch \$700, blue leather LaZBoy recliner \$200, Queen Anne burgundy recliner \$75, blue chair and ottoman \$50, 5x7 patchwork rug \$75, coffee table \$50, country hutch \$150, country toilet hutch \$75, white GE electric stove \$75 and many more country decor items. 275-2637. 12/29/c

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

A great conditioning bargain in time for Christmas and that New Year's resolution; Nordic Cross Bow trainer with folding bench. It's yours for \$200 (needs one cable replaced). 904-536-7999. 12/22tfc

Seasoned firewood \$80 for half cord delivered. Call Bruce 838-3130. 10/27-12/29p

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

1998 27' Coachmen Catalina, no slide-out, new aluminum roof, duct air, VERY clean! \$4,650, 904-860-3971, willing to negotiate. 12/22-29p

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

1997 Monterey Montura, 21' inboard/outboard with bimini top and trailer. Now accepting bids, contact Beth at 653-4453. 11/17tfc

New power lift recliner. Call for info 259-3117. 12/22-29p

Graco Stroller, blue plaid covering, very nice, \$25 OBO. 588-3628. 12/15tfc

Miscellaneous

In-home childcare ages 7-10, after school or school holidays. Call for more information. 259-9128. 12/29p

Helping Hands of Baker County. Need help with housework, washing the car or even walking the dog? Call 904-349-7382. Work for donations only towards my mission. 12/29-1/12p

Got Leaves? We can get them out of your way in time for your Christmas and New Years parties. Call 904-591-2640. Licensed and insured. 12/22-29c

Looking for acreage for me and my sons to target shoot on two or three times per year. Closer to Macclenny the better. Call Mitch at 259-6435. 12/29/p

No time for house cleaning? Call Paula and Belinda. Reasonable rates, experienced, references if needed. 904-653-1773. 12/29-1/5p

Lost

Lost: Winchester Ranger rifle .30-30 caliber with Tasco 3x-9x scope. Lost in Oceola National Forest on or near Sand Hill Grade Friday, December 23, 2011. Reward offered to person who finds and returns rifle. This rifle was my grandfather's who gave it to me. Please call Charlie Burnett at (904) 259-6627. 12/29p

Animals

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

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

Help Wanted

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

Two dump truck drivers needed. Clean MCR, verifiable employment. Contact Billy at 904-334-8739. 12/29-1/19p

Equipment operator needed. Loader, dozer and skidder. Call 904-545-0611. 12/29-1/5p

Fleet Mechanics Needed: Tractor/trailer mechanics needed for late model fleet. Must have experience and tools. Welding experience helpful, good pay and benefits. Apply in person at Pritchett Trucking, Lake Butler, FL or online at www.pritchetttrucking.com. 10/27tfc

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

Real Estate

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 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, high and dry. Mud Lake Rd approx. 1/4 mile past bridge. Mobile homes ok. Asking \$32,000. 904-828-9392. 12/8-29p

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.landyes.net. 6/30tfc

10 acres, horse pasture, all cleared, lots of large trees, new barn with 6 stalls and tack room with 4 BR, 2 new bathrooms home. Owner finance entire mortgage. 268-5126. 12/8-29p

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

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

Fully furnished riverfront cabin in Glen St. Mary for only \$124,900! 2 BR, 1 BA on St. Mary's river with 60' wrap-around deck! 904-333-6363. 12/8-29p

2 BR, 1 BA apartment, utility room with W/D hook-up. First month plus deposit. Glen St. Mary. Available now. 904-591-117tfc

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

1997 Monterey Montura, 21' inboard/outboard with bimini top and trailer. Now accepting bids, contact Beth at 653-4453. 11/17tfc

New power lift recliner. Call for info 259-3117. 12/22-29p

Graco Stroller, blue plaid covering, very nice, \$25 OBO. 588-3628. 12/15tfc

For Rent

3723. 12/29p
3 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 1 acre on 125 south, pole barn, fish pond, fenced property \$900/month, \$1200 deposit, 259-9066. 12/29tfc

3 BR, 2 BA, 2006 doublewide mobile home on private property in Glen St. Mary, \$800/month, \$500 deposit. Call Bruce 838-3130. 12/22-29p

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide extra clean \$850/month, \$650 deposit. 3 BR, 2 BA singlewide extra clean \$650/month, \$650 deposit. 259-2121. 12/22tfc

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

Room for rent, new house, share kitchen etc., single only \$400/month includes electric, water, cable, 904-735-4304. 12/29-1/5p

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home on nice 1/2 acre lot. Kids catch bus on corner. \$650/month, \$500 deposit. References required. Service animals only 259-5853. 12/15-29p

Trailer for rent, \$400/month, \$200 deposit. 59-6391. 12/29p

Apartment 2 BR, 1 BA, CH/A 49 W Ohio Ave. \$550/month, \$550 deposit. 259-6488. 12/29p

Nice 3 BR, 2 BA, \$995/month, first month and deposit, no smoking, Fox Ridge, North Boulevard, Macclenny. Call 904-608-9859 or 904-370-0365. 12/22-29p

January move-in special, 3 BR, 2 BA newly remodeled with new carpet, tile and fresh paint. 904-571-9228. 12/22tfc

3 BR, 1 BA home near Memorial Stadium. \$750/month, first, last, \$300 deposit, service animals only, 904-710-5246. 12/22-29p

Mobile Homes, 2 and 3 BR, A/C, service animals only. \$500-575 plus deposit. 904-860-4604. 9/1tfc

2 BR, 1 BA duplex, all appliances including washer and dryer, \$650/month, \$300 deposit. 259-3300 or 591-2790. 9/1tfc

Room for rent, \$80 a week, all utilities included. 904-402-1702. 12/1tfc

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide on large lot, Cuyler area. \$700/month. 904-674-3285 or 904-838-3934. 12/22-1/12

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Commercial FR

2 or 3 BR mobile home on 1/2 acre in Raiford, 1/2 mile from new Dollar General. \$500/month, 904-966-1396 or 386-431-1917.

12/22-29p

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

12/8-29c

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

12/2-29p

4 BR, 2 BA river front mobile home. \$850 deposit. 813-3091. 9/29tfc

12/2-29p

2 BR mobile homes, \$350/month, \$350 deposit and \$400/month, \$400 deposit, garbage, water, sewage and lawn care included. First month's rent is prorated. 904-219-2690 or 912-843-8165. 11/17tfc

12/15-1/5c

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derful quality. And they become the personal property of the children, not the school."

Increasing the home library is part of FirstStart's goal.

Ms. Bryant works with parents to help them become their child's first "teacher."

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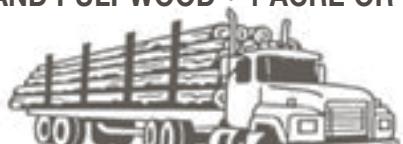
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which can begin with holding and sharing a book.

"We encourage them to experience the book together on different levels, through the pictures, words, colors, talking about the author and illustrator," said Ms. Bryant.

Learning to hold and turn pages teaches fine motor skills. Learning to care for and value books is also part of the experience.

"The children have known for a while that they were to receive the books, but the parents were as excited if not more so than the kids," she said.

This year, Ms. Bryant also arranged for several eligible families to receive pre-lit Christmas trees through a donation of the Orange Park Women's Club thrift store.

Making paper chain decorations will be part of the home instruction as it helps foster children's fine motor skills and is a parent/child bonding experience.

The FirstStart teacher is thankful for what she can help families with very young children accomplish through the book donations and other aspects of the program.

"Instruction comes naturally to some people and not so to others, especially very, very young parents," she said.

Ms. Anderson reports that the state cut funding to FirstStart programs last year.

But the PreK/Kindergarten Center has managed to reposition some of its operational budget to keep the program intact, at least for now.

"It's a wonderful and vital program for children at first stages of education," she said. "We are definitely able to see the progress and the change these home lessons can make in preparing children for learning."

Disney books for FirstStart kids

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

Teacher Heather Bryant is excited about what she can give some of the children she works with this holiday season: beautifully designed books published by the Disney company.

Ms. Bryant is the primary instructor of FirstStart at the Prek/Kindergarten Center. The early intervention program promotes parental involvement in the development of literacy skills of children ages 1-4 years to ready them for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program.

FirstStart instructors can apply for grants to purchase books for the children of families in the communities where they work.

Ms. Bryant and her supervisor Naomi Anderson both agreed the books would be extra special if they were distributed during the Christmas season.

"The books are beautiful," said Ms. Anderson. "Such won-



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Heather Bryant displays some of the Disney books.

derful quality. And they become the personal property of the children, not the school."

Increasing the home library is part of FirstStart's goal.

Ms. Bryant works with parents to help them become their child's first "teacher."

Each home visit includes instruction in an activity a parent can engage in with their child

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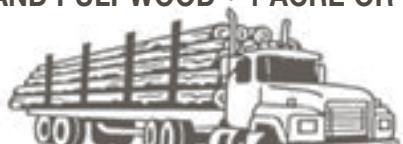
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SPORTS


SPORTS NOTICE SUBMISSIONS

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

Sirk MVP of all-star game

Thomas Sirk might have been a late addition to the roster for the 57th annual FACA North/South All Star Classic in Sebring, Florida on December 21, but he certainly made his presence known. The senior Wildcat quarterback was named the game's MVP after he led the North to a 47-21 victory over a strong South squad.

Sirk, who will be enrolling early at Duke University this January, shone with pinpoint passes and some effective scrambling. He found Brandon Brooks from First Coast and AJ Legree from Ft. White for a pair of touchdowns. The toss to Legree was particularly nifty, a lob pass that floated into the corner of the end zone where Legree used his athleticism to take it from two defenders.

Gaskins saw a lot of field time, catching a pair of passes from his tight end spot. He also lined up at fullback and wide receiver. Gaskins is a very versatile player and demonstrated his ability to go wherever he was needed.

BCHS Coach Ryan Sulkowski was the offensive line coach for the game and very proud of his players' performance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GERARD
From left: MVP Thomas Sirk, Coach Ryan Sulkowski and Roland Gaskins.

"I could not be more proud of these two young men," said Sulkowski. "To go down and practice for four days away from anything they have ever known with the best athletes from North Florida and to compete the way they did — that was impressive."

Six Wildcat football players also made *The Times-Union* All-First Coast teams. Quarterback Thomas Sirk and freshman CeCe

Jefferson were first team selections.

The quarterback is headed to Duke in two weeks and is the 19th ranked passer in the US. He has over 2000 yards passing and 1000 rushing.

Jefferson was the only freshman named to the first team. He recorded 8 sacks and 22.5 tackles behind the line of scrimmage on the season.

Receiver Kendrick Singleton missed a first team selection by five points and led all second team players. The Southern Miss recruit had 61 catches for 1085 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Cornerback Falon Lee was named to the third team. He was also the Cats' top runner with 1000 yards for the season but was named for his pass protection skills. He was in the area's top five in interceptions and pass breakups.

Blake Mills and Elijah Lee received honorable mention. Mills plays center and Lee is a defensive end.

The Cats led the district in selections.

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

FAT LADY

ROBERT GERARD

BCHS baseball alum is drafted

Congratulations to former BCHS baseball star Adam Lewis, who was recently drafted into the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He recently got a business degree from Mars Hill, played catcher for the school's Eagles and was one of their top hitters.

Lewis transferred from Brevard Community College where he excelled and did most the catching duties. He was Mars Hill's third-best hitter statistically with a .398 average and a .606 slugging percentage.

Lewis had eight home runs and 55 RBIs for the Eagles last season. The Eagles were 23-26 overall and 11-16 in the South Atlantic Conference.

Lewis will make his ways through rookie league and the Cards' farm teams in hopes of making the big show.

• Gator fans have a love/hate relationship with Urban Meyer/Urban Liar. After all, he won two national titles for them. Then again, he bailed with talk of health and family when the going got rough.

But a year later all those health and family issues must have miraculously worked themselves out and he has thrown himself from the frying pan and into the fire taking over at Ohio State.

He won't be on the Gator Bowl sidelines when the lizards take on the Buckeyes on New Years Day. He won't be in the Big Ten Championship or a bowl game next year either.

No, I have no crystal ball. Yes, the Buckeyes have a one-year NCAA suspension. Meyer/Liar didn't have anything to do with it — that was all Jim Tressel covering up his players selling their Big Ten championship regalia for tattoos. So, for the time being, it's rather pointless for Gator fans to hate their ex-coach.

• Okay, I agree that Tim Tebow — have you possibly heard that name spoken recently — might be the best college player of all time. But then again ... I can't think that anyone will break Kelvin Moore's records as quarterback at Boise State any time in the next 50 years.

Moore has 50 wins to his credit. He's averaged 12½ wins a season as a four-year starter at Boise. He smashed Colt McCoy's career record by four games. As a matter of fact, Boise's 50 wins over four years will be hard to beat.

Like Tebow, Moore is a questionable NFL prospect. He is 6' tall, considered short even though Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton (who, by the way reminds me of a smaller version of Tebow) was much smaller.

What Moore has is serious football knowledge. He will be a coach at some point and Boise coach Chris Peterson calls him an offensive coordinator on the field.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS Monday at 5:00 pm

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO.: 02-2011-CA-129

PATRICIA L. FISH, Trustee of the Benjamin F. Fish Revocable Living Trust U/A dated August 9, 2001 and PATRICIA L. FISH, Trustee of the Patricia L. Fish Trust Revocable Living Trust U/A dated August 9, 2001 Plaintiff,

vs.

THOMAS MONTELEONE, FLORIDA TELCO CREDIT UNION, AND ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above-captioned action, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 17th day of January, 2012, the described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 11 of the Family Oaks Estates Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 2, Pages 97 and 98 of the current public records of Baker County, Fl.

Together with: 1987DWHM ID# PSHGA-B011478A & PSHGA-B011478B

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

Dated this 13 day of December, 2011.

THOMAS "AL" FRASER
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
By: Julie Combs
DEPUTY CLERK

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Hugh D. Fish, Jr.
334 S Fifth St.
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-6606

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2010-CA-000093

BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP
FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING,
Plaintiff,
vs.

EMILY MILLICENT WALKER A/K/A
EMILY M. WALKER, ET AL.
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 21, 2011, and entered in Case No. 2010-CA-000093, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP (hereafter "Plaintiff"), is Plaintiff and EMILY MILLICENT WALKER A/K/A EMILY M. WALKER, DWAYNE WALKER; JOHN DOE N/K/A MELVIN OWEN; JANE DOE N/K/A LAURA OWEN, are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the EAST DOOR of the Courthouse, 339 East Macclenny Avenue, 1st Floor, Macclenny, at 11:00 a.m., on the 30 day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A LOT BEGINNING ON THE WEST SIDE OF OCEAN STREET, 270 FEET NORTH OF THE CENTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILROAD; THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF OCEAN STREET, 420 FEET TO CHURCH STREET; THENCE RUN WEST 423 FEET OF THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 420 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST 429.3 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN THE TOWN OF OLIESTEE, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. IN THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST.

Under the American with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit.org, to wit:

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

Dated this 21 day of December, 2011.

AL FRASER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Julie Combs
As Deputy Clerk

Van Ness Law Firm, P.A.
1239 E. Newport Center Drive Suite #110
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442
Phone (954) 571-2031
Fax (954) 571-2033
12/29/15

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DECEMBER 29, 2011



PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

Obstacles galore on BCSO course

Koty Crews (right) and Brandon Gonzalez negotiate the "Jacobs Ladder" section of the newly-completed obstacle course at the sheriff's office complex the afternoon of December 26. The course also includes rope and cargo net climbs, hurdles, walls, ditches, tunnels and many other physical challenges. "It was harder than I thought it would be," said Mr. Gonzalez.

Lifters' state title top story

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

The top Baker County sports story of the year has to be the Wildcat weightlifting "four-peat" as state champions. Coach Scott McDonald's team won its fourth straight and seventh overall title by defeating Blountstown by a blistering 24 points. The Cats finished the competition in Kissimmee with 44 points while Blountstown recorded 20 points.

In doing so, the team of 14 lifters also broke the total point record by eight, posting 44 points.

Senior Rueben Jackson won his second straight state title in the 219-pound class and Kendrick Singleton, Ray Mangiafico and Jeremy Wannamaker won runners-up medals.

Jackson had a 385-pound bench press and a 300-pound clean and jerk for a 685 total. He beat second place Jake Howard of Atlantic by 25 pounds.

Singleton had a 640-pound total in the 183-pound class. Wannamaker finished with a 635-pound total in the 199-pound class.

Mangiafico barely missed winning the heavyweight division. He finished with a 730 total, the same as top finisher Anthony Descantoli of Matanzas, but was 30 pounds heavier than Descantoli, so the title went to the lifter who weighed less.

The Cats have garnered such a reputation that competitors gather to watch them warm up and McDonald holds impromptu

workshops with other teams' lifters who ask him for advice between matches.

• The Wildcat football team narrowly missed the playoffs again this year, but in the process defeated last year's state champions the Trinity Conquerors and led this year's state champions, Bolles by two touchdowns late in the fourth quarter before losing by a point.

The Wildcats seemed snake bitten, with a few miscues turning a potentially undefeated season into a playoff miss.

The Wildcats did have some good news as quarterback Thomas Sirk committed to Duke and wide receiver Kendrick Singleton committed to Southern Mississipi.

Sirk had over 2000 yards passing and 1000 yards rushing this season and was the MVP of

the FACA North/South All Star Classic. Sirk also punted for a 46 yard average. He will leave for Duke this coming month.

Singleton was his top receiving target with 60 receptions for over 1000 yards and 16 touchdowns.

• The BCHS softball team went on a scoring barrage in the district tournament last April to take the title.

Though the team entered the playoff as the eighth seed, the Cats peaked just at the right time. They won a qualifying game against Crescent City to reach the tournament and during the next four games outscored opponents 46-3.

The ladies went on to regional competition and defeated Oakleaf 7-2 before falling to the Bolles Bulldogs at home 7-0 to end the season.

What Moore has is serious football knowledge. He will be a coach at some point and Boise coach Chris Peterson calls him an offensive coordinator on the field.

Register for your Homestead Exemption

January 1 - March 1 ~ Happy New Year!

Property Appraiser Tim Sweat

259-3191 | www.bakerpa.com



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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

December 29

District-wide: Christmas Break
BCHS: First Coast Basketball Tournament (All Day)

December 30

District-wide: Christmas Break

January 2

District-wide: New Year's Day Holiday

January 3

District-wide: Inservice Day, School Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
District School Board Room

January 4

District-wide: Students Return