

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

82nd Year, Vol. 45 • Winner of 7 state awards for journalism excellence in 2010

4th grader wins poison warning poster contest

See page 14



Seven straight wins for Cats, big tests coming

See page 15



Challenge incumbent members on the BCC

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Two Macclenny men jumped into the 2012 election last week to oppose the only Democrats on the Baker County Commission.

Republican Jack G. Donker Jr. filed his initial campaign finance form March 9 and his fellow party member Leonard Davis did so the same day.



Leonard Davis

Mr. Davis will face Democrat Gordon Crews of Macclenny, who represents District 3, a swath of the northeastern county located largely north of US 90 and east of CR 23A.

Mr. Davis, 65, retired from the federal civil service after 41 years with the US Navy in Jacksonville. He is a former county fire chief.



Gordon Crews

Mr. Crews, a registered nurse at the Fraser emergency room, was elected in 2004 and retained his seat four years later by running unopposed.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge," Mr. Crews, 51, said this week.

The two-term commissioner filed his initial campaign finance form on March 9 as well. He submitted a Statement of Candidate affidavit, attesting he's read and understands state elections laws, three days later.

Mr. Davis said he's seeking the office of county commissioner to become more involved with how the county spends its money. He cited "overall mismanagement" of

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St. Mary's River clean up and celebration Saturday

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Manntown Bridge 62% done



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON
The Florida Department of Transportation estimates the replacement of the Manntown Bridge on CR 125 south of I-10 is 62 percent complete, and the new structure shown here should be open to north and south bound traffic by May. DOT spokeswoman Gina Busscher said this week two more deck pours are scheduled by the end of the month atop the two already completed. The old bridge dating back to 1949 has been demolished except for timber piles and the entire project should be finished on time by July. The \$3.5 million cost is being funded by the federal government. DOT originally planned to keep the old bridge opened during construction but changed plans due to unsuitable soil under the subgrade of SR 125.



Unpaid EMS bills amount to \$1.6M

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

If everybody who owes the county money for emergency medical services suddenly paid up all at once, the county would receive more than \$1.6 million. That would be more than enough to balance the EMS department's budget, which operated at a deficit last year of about \$400,000.

But county officials know that's never going to happen, which is one reason they're trying to find a private company to take over the rescue department's billing practices in an effort to collect past-due debts.

"We currently have approximately 4,630 outstanding bills," EMS Director David Richardson said on March 13. "Some of these bills are partially paid, some by insurance and some private pay."

Using numbers provided by the department, the average debt per account is \$360.55.

Currently, the total amount in arrears is \$1,669,331.68, "which changes daily," Mr. Richardson said, adding that the oldest debts still on the books date back to 2007.

Some would be much older than that if the county did not routinely write off past-due amounts, totaling more than \$70,000 each year, as uncollectable debts.

"Rescue does have a formal policy for collection, but it does not give specific time lines and is more of a general guideline pertaining to billing," Mr. Richardson said.

In other words, people who

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Investigators raid two more meth labs Glen man charged again

A Glen St. Mary man released from county jail with a pending felony charge for operating a mobile meth lab in December, 2011 was re-arrested for manufacturing the drug at a residence north of Macclenny.

Melvin (Rusty) Mann, 29, was charged on March 5, and Brittany Grimes, 18, was arrested the same day for procuring pseudo-ephedrine, a key ingredient for meth. Ms. Grimes is the daughter of Mr. Mann's girlfriend Christine Grimes, 38,



Melvin Mann



Brittany Grimes

who lives with him and several of her younger children at a residence on Durland Rd.

Sheriff's investigators made the arrests after finding other ingredients for meth at the address off CR 23C, including two plastic bottles with residue, and after interviewing the younger Ms. Grimes.

Mr. Mann was released several weeks ago from jail, where he had been since an arrest on December 15 in Glen driv-

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In metal shed near Baxter

A north Baker County man was charged last week with manufacturing methamphetamine at his residence and two other persons, including his girlfriend, were arrested for purchasing materials to manufacture the drug.

Acting on a tip from a woman described as his long-time girlfriend, sheriff's investigators arrested Billy Burnham, 33, at his residence off Moccasin Circle near Baxter the evening of March 6.



Billy Burnham



Melinda Duncan

A plastic bottle with manufactured meth in it was found at the scene, described as a one-room metal shed where the suspect was living. Investigator John Hardin said a bag with several other ingredients was found in the suspect's vehicle nearby.

The officer, accompanied by investigators Mike Hauge and Randy Crews, who is assigned to a regional federal drug task force, then went to the residence of

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS
Where are you at on your taxes this year?

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COMMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

CONTACT US

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



Lots of 'lights under a bushel'

I know now what a shell shock victim in World War I must have felt like when he stumbled out of the trenches at Armistice Day. I have that same blank, glazed, thousand-yard stare into the middle distance kind of look.

No, I haven't been subjected to artillery barrages or machine gun fire. But I can match that because I've been through Annie auditions. My daughter Sara Beth and I have been trying to sort through 134 people, most of whom want to be either Annie or Miss Hannigan and will be disappointed when they are not. They are auditioning for 25-30 parts.

I need to hide in a cave for a couple days after posting the cast list. Of that number probably 100 are under the age of 13 and half that number are under the age of 10. Auditioning young children is a lot like herding cats; you can do it but it isn't easy and takes a lot of patience, and you're always going to wind up with scratches.

Sara Beth is co-directing the show, the first time she's been this involved in the casting process for one of these huge shows. She looked at me after the first afternoon and said, "I must be getting more patient as

I get older ... I ... I ... just must." There was no need for her to explain, I knew exactly how she felt. Everything starts to run together after a little while and you wonder which blonde is Susie and which is Katie. Sara Beth's young eyes are

much better than mine at keeping track of the cats. I make hieroglyphics marks on my page that I can read but look like chicken scratching to everyone else. I have come to depend greatly on these identifying marks. I may not have a clue which blonde is Susie or Katie and whether they could sing the song or dance at 4:30 pm, but I did at 2:45 pm when I made those notes.

So when you see Annie the first two weekends in May, what you are really seeing are triangles and boxes and circles and asterisks. I have seen some really talented kids. It takes a lot of courage to get up on stage and sing. It doesn't matter what age you are. It is always nerve-wracking and I have a lot of respect for the kids who do it. It also doesn't matter if they are good, mediocre or awful; putting yourself forward on stage like that takes courage that most kids don't possess. You've got to admire that.

Some practice hard to audition with little dance moves to go along with their songs. Others are just there; scared or nervous and hoping that they will be able to sing above a whisper when their time comes.

It's also interesting to watch the parents, though I don't have much time to do that because I am too busy herding the cats toward the stage. I have had mothers shake their heads, amazed that their shy little 6-year-old got on stage in front of all those people and sang without crying and running for the hills. I have also watched mothers, and fathers too, biting their fingernails as their kid struggled through a song, then snuffle and wipe their eyes when the song is over and the rest of the people are applauding.

To me and mine it's all in a day's work, but for most folks it is a challenge to watch and you get to see some very proud parents.

My more veteran drama kids watch me watch the people auditioning and try to read the signs and portents. "He just nodded, what do you think

that means? Is it good or bad?" "Was that a smile?" "He just frowned." "No he didn't. I think his eyes just bugged out. What do bugged out eyes mean?"

How should I know? I usually don't even know what's going on in my head from moment to moment until I look at the triangles and ampersands when it's all over.

People are forever coming up to me amazed at the amount of talent that we have in Baker County. They wouldn't be amazed at all if they came to these auditions and saw it in its raw, uncut form.

My answer is always that it's here, but it's just a matter of getting it on stage. For every kid who has the courage to audition there are three or four with just as much or more talent who don't have the nerve to get up on stage and let it shine. It's like the Bible says in Matthew 5:15 and is paraphrased in the wonderful musical *Godspell*. "If your light is under a bushel, you've lost something kind of crucial."

I have 134 lights that aren't hidden under a bushel. I just wish I could let them all shine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questions why EMS debt is her problem

Dear Editor:
Like most people I am concerned about higher taxes, so I attended the March 6 county commission meeting when EMS [emergency medical services] assessment fees were discussed.

Attendees were told that the assessment fee was needed to close a \$400,000 deficit. Actually, the 2010 EMS audit determined the deficit to be \$945,000. According to the commission, the deficit is the result of uncollected fees.

Commissioner Mike Crews stated that he would not support this new tax to property owners unless the ad valorem tax rate was adjusted to offset any tax hike from the assessment fee.

The ad valorem tax is market-driven, based on the value of your property. Some property owners have already seen their tax rate drop because the value of their homes have. This results in less revenue to the county.

When asked how much my taxes would go up if the EMS assessment fee was passed, Commissioner Gordon Crews responded anywhere from \$20-100 a year with a "sliding scale" for certain property owners.

Mike Crews told me this was "fair." What is his definition of fair? I have not used EMS services and had no part creating the \$945,000 deficit. I pay my taxes every year, so what am I responsible for this debt?

Theresa L. Rhoden
Glen St. Mary

Cost-free weddings unrealistic

Dear Editor:
This is in response to the letter "Church wedding rental fees steep" printed in the March 4 edition.

The writer cast Baker County churches in a negative light. Everyone would like to have a nice place to get married, but to expect a church to provide a free wedding to a couple that does not even attend the church is unrealistic.

A church wedding is costly. Someone must pay for the electricity, water, musicians, grounds keeping, janitor, insurance and the pastor. The people who pay for all these things are members of that church who faithfully attend each week.

Through tithing and offerings, the bills get paid.

So when someone calls a church asking for a free wedding, they are actually asking for all its members to foot the bill for their wedding.

Damon Agostino
Bushnell, FL

YMCA merits support

Dear Editor:
This area benefits greatly from the Baker County Family YMCA. The "Y" has become an integral part of our community since 2001, offering services that benefit children, families and individuals.

It is amazing to see:
✓ Young children develop individual and team skills by participating in soccer, basketball, flag football and other sports programs;

✓ Adults and teens who are seriously interested in losing weight and/or strengthening their bodies complete six weeks of "survival camp;"

✓ Seniors enjoying yoga, water aerobics and zumba dancing;

✓ Home-schooled children participating in P.E. classes;

✓ Youngsters learning to swim and competing with other Y swim teams;

✓ Weight training programs, spinning classes, treadmills, and summer camps that develop and maintain strong bodies, mind and spirit for all ages;

✓ Teachers and students competing with each other in physical training;

✓ Sanderson teens attending an after-school center that provides a healthy and safe arena for socializing.

As most are aware, there is a large population of people in Baker County who struggle with health problems. The YMCA is dedicated to helping those who would like to improve their overall health by education and increase their physical activity in a safe and healthy manner with trained professionals. Memberships and "try out periods" are easily available and do not require a long-term contract to join.

As we kick off our 2012 Give to the Y campaign for scholarship funds to assist those who otherwise could not afford to participate in "Y" activities, we need your help more than ever. So many families are struggling in these tough economic times.

If you are contacted for a donation, please open your hearts and give the "gift of health" to someone in need. Or just drop by the "Y" to say hello and check it out!

Mag McGauley, Chair
Board of Directors
Baker County YMCA

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

usps 040-280
Post Office Box 598
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-2400

The Baker County Press is published each Thursday by Baker County Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid under permit issued December 30, 1929 at the post office in Macclenny, Florida.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$25.00 a year inside Baker County; \$35.00 a year outside Baker County; deduct \$1.00 for persons 65 years of age or older, military personnel on active duty outside Baker County, and college students living outside Baker County. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Baker County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063.

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.



Facebook fans 'What you had to say ...'

With all the talk nationwide about the economy and what to do, we decided to see what entitlements our readers feel need an overhaul. So we turned to Facebook to ask, "What government entitlements do you think need major overhauls? i.e. Medicare, Social Security etc.?" Here's some of what they had to say ...

Amly Luding Williams: "Welfare!"
Laura Stafford-Jacobs: "Anything that is giving money, food, and luxuries to people that sit on their behinds and keep having babies just to get a check!"

Amly Luding Williams: "I use to live by someone who received food stamps ... like \$500 worth. This person has no job, lived with their parents and has 3 kids with 3 different men. She would come home with a family size box of Drumstick sticks ice cream. My husband serves his country and has for almost 20 years and there is no box of drumstick ice cream in my freezer."

Michael Wilcox: "Social programs, many foreign aid programs, solar and wind energy welfare programs, paying farmers to not grow crops, politicians retirement and healthcare programs."

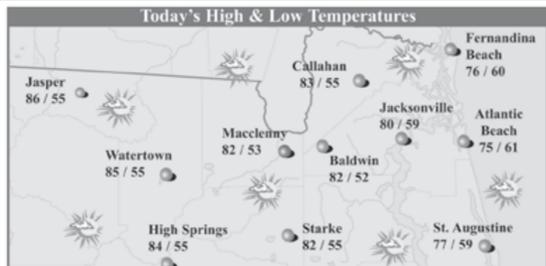
Robert Thompson: "That's a tough question. Entitlement to me means something that's guaranteed. Social security for example. I pay into it all my life means it should be there later. The problem is all that's paid out to people who have never paid a dime into it. Then we have unemployment paid to people who aren't even looking for work. Just keep paying them. Welfare, food stamps, etc. to people who lay around and do nothing. Maybe pump out another kid here and there. But the biggest problem is they consider all these handouts as entitlements! The whole system is screwed up and only getting worse. Clean out all politicians and start over. If they were put in of-

rice in 2010 or after, let them have a chance. Everybody before that needs to go. They've proven they are part of the problem."

Clayton Yarbrough: "Nobody gets any entitlements unless they have paid into them with taxes, medicare or social security. It is not a handout if you have paid into them your entire life, it then becomes a right too claim what's yours. Social security was not set-up too ever be touched by anyone so that the money would be there when people reached their retirement could draw on it. Politicians violated the law and now spend the money faster than it can be collected on whatever pet project they want it for and keep raising the age that it can be drawn. Pretty soon nobody will live long enough to draw it at all. Hell will be full with just politicians at the rate we are going!"

The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast table with columns for day (Thursday to Wednesday) and weather conditions (Mostly Sunny, Mostly Cloudy, Partly Cloudy).



Last Week's Local Almanac table with columns for Day, High, Low, Normals, and Precip.

March 15, 2012

Sun/Moon Chart This Week table with columns for Day, Sunrise, and Sunset.

St. Mary's River Levels table with columns for Location, Now, and Change.

Weather History table for March 15, 1988, with columns for Day, AM, and PM.



Country Federal Credit Union's annual meeting of the membership was held on March 5 at the Ag Center in Macclenny.

and Wendy Inglis - 5 years. The credit union thanks Janet Teague for catering the delicious meal and the following businesses and members for the donations given as door prizes:

- List of businesses: Glen Cash Store, Morans Motors, Ice Castles, Nina's, Sugar and Spice & Everything Chocolate, Woody's BBQ, Sixth Street Steak House, Pier 6, Everybody's Restaurant of Baldwin, Papa Sean's Pizza of Baldwin, Chicken-N-Fish to go, Fat Jacks BBQ, Calendars Pizzeria, East Star-Mike Ricks, Bruce Sale, Moonlight Blessings

COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Challenge incumbent members...

From page 1
receive emergency medical services are not given any particular time period within which to pay the bill, nor is the county's decision to write off a debt time sensitive.

Mr. Donker, the owner of Fat Jacks Smokestack BBQ in Baldwin, is challenging three-term county commissioner and Democrat Mark Hartley for the District 5 seat.

District 5 includes most of the 32040 zip code and the Town of Glen St. Mary.

"I'm interested in politics and we need new, fresh ideals on the board," said Mr. Donker, 49. "These are tough times now. We need to look at how money is going in and how the money is going out."



Mark Hartley

High School said he's yet to file paperwork with the elections office but he intends to seek reelection.

"You just get out there and work hard and everything will work out one way or the other," he said. "People have to look at our records, and I think our records are pretty good."

County commission candidates have until June 8 to qualify for the 2012 elections by paying the \$1788 fee, but those seeking to qualify by petition have until May 27 to submit the required 140 signatures.

Commissioner Michael Crews, a Republican, has qualified by petition to seek re-election to his District 1 seat, which encompasses the southwestern county communities of Margaretta, Sanderson and Olustee.

For more information about running for office or the upcoming elections, please call Supervisor of Elections Nita Crawford at 259-6339.

Unpaid EMS bills total \$1.6 million...

From page 1

receive emergency medical services are not given any particular time period within which to pay the bill, nor is the county's decision to write off a debt time sensitive.

"The current write-off is not based on a time line," the director said. "The method currently being used, which was recommended by our auditors, is to write off \$6,000 per month with the oldest dated bills."

However, no outstanding balance will be written off no matter how long the debt has been carried on the books as long as someone continues to make regular payments, he said.

"As long as they're paying on it we wouldn't write it off," Mr. Richardson said.

Billing statements are sent to people monthly, reflecting the current outstanding balance. For many, it was the first time they had ever needed rescue, perhaps the result of an automobile accident, a heart attack or an injury at home, while others call more often and are known as "regulars," Mr. Richardson said.

"There are quite a few individuals that have more than one bill outstanding," he said, "but most are individual bills (stemming from a single incident). Some are legitimately sick and have chronic illnesses and they may never get any better."

On the other hand, he said, some people who may not necessarily need rescue call when they just "don't feel good."

Even when a medical assessment indicates someone does not appear to have a serious illness or injury, or someone who has called rescue numerous times in the past, rescue workers cannot refuse a request to be transported.

to the hospital, especially if no other transportation is available, Mr. Richardson said.

"We would never deny anybody service," he said. "If somebody called for the 20th time and said they had a sore foot we wouldn't deny them service. If we did and then they had a heart attack the liability would be pretty high."

The volume and dollar amount of outstanding EMS bills has grown considerably in the past two years. In 2010, the total amount of unpaid EMS bills was slightly more than \$1 million, less than two-thirds the current amount.

Because of the growing problem, which forces taxpayers to subsidize the department's budget each year with contributions from the county's general fund, the county recently began soliciting proposals from private companies interested in taking over the county's collections procedures.

County Manager C.J. Thompson, who recommended the move, said he believes a professional collections firm would do a better job of collecting old debts than the county has done in the past.

"We're overhauling the entire (collections) process," Mr. Thompson said during a county commission meeting on March 6, during which residents complained about a proposed EMS special assessment.

The first complaint came from Macclenny resident William Lowther, who said he was opposed to any further tax or fee increases.

"I have nothing against the EMS department," Mr. Lowther said. "I'm sure they do a fine job. However, I don't feel property owners should be the only ones

who foot the bill."

He suggested the county find a way to entice more businesses, such as restaurants, to locate in Baker County to broaden the tax base to relieve the pressure on homeowners.

Mr. Lowther wasn't the only person to question the need for an EMS levy.

"Why do we need a special assessment? Is it because people are not paying their EMS bills?" Theresa Rhoden of Glen St. Mary asked the board.

Commissioner Michael Crews, one of the most ardent supporters of special assessments, said it's true that the EMS department operated at a \$400,000 loss last year and that many medical bills go unpaid. But he said the department is not supposed to be a "money-making operation."

An annual assessment, similar to one property owners pay for county fire protection, is the best way to help finance the rescue operations, Mr. Crews said. He said it would certainly be more fair than imposing higher tax bills on people whose property values have been declining.

"Sixty-nine percent of county residents pay less than \$999 in taxes a year," he said. "Thirty-one percent pay \$1,000 or more.

Some people pay little or no taxes. With assessments, everyone pays the same amount. It's a way to spread out the costs so everyone pays their fair share.

"Ad valorem taxes are market driven and fluctuate," he said. "We've got to move toward a better way and a better way is special assessments."

The county commission authorized an assessment fee for rescue services in 2010, but set the amount at zero. Recently, officials have talked about setting the fee at up to \$100 a year.

If an assessment fee is not forthcoming, Commission Chairman Gordon Crews said the county may have to resort to "cutting the services."

Turning over emergency medical services to a private company, however, is not on the table for consideration, at least not yet.

The county manager said recently that he had met with LifeGuard Ambulance Service, a private company that last year took over emergency medical services in Columbia County, and concluded that privatization would not save the county any money because the company would use the county's EMS units and personnel, who are already paid minimum wage.

Meanwhile, perhaps the county could step up efforts to encourage people to pay their EMS bills a little at a time, said Sharon Padgett, who regularly attends commission meetings and often offers suggestions for improving efficiency in county government.

"If you make it affordable people would pay on a payment plan," Mrs. Padgett told commissioners during the March 6 board meeting. "I know we've got good citizens here and a lot of them would pay."

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CITY OF MACCLENNY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM SOLICITATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Department of Economic Opportunity has made Community Development Block Grant funding available to the City of Macclenny for residents located in the incorporated areas of the City.

These funds will be utilized to assist low income residents with the rehabilitation or replacement of their homes.

The City will accept Application Packages beginning on Thursday, March 15, 2012 thru Friday, March 30, 2012 between the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Application packages that are received after the deadline will not be accepted. Application Packages may be obtained from Melissa Thompson, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063.

Application packages should be dropped off with or mailed to Melissa Thompson, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Spencer Nabors at TTC Group Inc. (850) 520-0846.

NEW RIVER LANDFILL

Methane gas project collapses California dashes New River hopes for revenue

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The New River landfill's plan to partner with a California engineering firm to pipe landfill gas to the west coast to generate power is no longer feasible due to changes in California law.

The so-called landfill gas-to-energy project was estimated to net the New River Solid Waste Association at least \$8 million over 15 years.

Association director Darrell O'Neal informed the Raiford landfill's board of directors last week that the California firm's president, Alan Janechek of Janechek & Associates, will meet with board members this week to discuss an alternate plan.

Janechek intended to build a plant at the tri-county landfill, which is owned by the association's member counties Baker, Bradford and Union, to process landfill gas consisting mostly of methane. The processed gas would then be sent across the country to power plants in California supplying electricity to hospitals.

Janechek paid New River a signing bonus of \$150,000 to launch the partnership. Mr. O'Neal said the firm is behind schedule and should've already applied for permits to construct the plant in accordance with the time line outlined in Janechek's contract.

"California has changed the rules on him," Mr. O'Neal said, explaining that a law passed last year requires all landfills in the state to install gas collection systems similar to the system at New River.

The move essentially removed out-of-state landfill gas suppliers from the California market.

"It's going to make it nearly impossible to do [the Janechek project] and he certainly can't get financing to build the project and produce the gas for California," said Mr. O'Neal.

Janechek's back-up plans have folded as well. Gainesville Regional Utilities offered to buy the gas when New River bid the landfill gas-to-energy project last year. Since then, however, it's withdrawn the offer.

"They said they had over-ventilated their renewable energy," the director said. "Their solar and their biomass plant is going to give them all the renewable energy they'll need for their system."

Florida Power & Light declined to purchase the landfill gas as well, because it's already invested in South Florida solar energy and windmills in Texas.

Janechek has a new proposal from Seminole Electric Co-op that he'll present to the New River board members during a March 15 meeting at 1 pm. The co-op supplies power to Clay Electric Co-op, which has a sub-station near Raiford.

The proposal would substantially change New River's contract and schedule with Janechek, Mr. O'Neal said. In other business last week, the New River board, which consists of two county commissioners from each member county, approved a new policy for waiving disposal fees.

In years past, the New River board considered requests, brought by board members on behalf of constituents, to waive tipping fees for owners of homes destroyed by fire or structures damaged in natural disasters.

The change will take effect October 1. The board also voted to waive the tipping fees for a home destroyed by fire in Union County.

Since 2007, \$6,362 in tipping fees have been waived for Baker County residents, \$54,538 for Bradford County residents and \$1,035 for Union County residents.

In other business: The change will take effect October 1.

The board also voted to waive the tipping fees for a home destroyed by fire in Union County.

Since 2007, \$6,362 in tipping fees have been waived for Baker County residents, \$54,538 for Bradford County residents and \$1,035 for Union County residents.

A front end loader, mower, tractor, compactor, trencher, forklift and mulcher were among the surplus property. New River operations director Perry Kent said he expects to have bids for consideration at the board's April meeting.

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CIRCUIT COURT

Prison for tire iron attack

A Macclenny man who beat a Winn-Dixie employee with a tire iron in a case of mistaken identity just over one year ago was given a 35-month prison sentence in circuit court on March 6.

Despite pleas by fellow church and family members for a more lenient sentence, Judge Phyllis Rosier went along with the state's recommendation in the case of David Dugan.

Mr. Dugan, 35, turned himself in at the sheriff's department shortly after the incident on February 28, 2011 during which he approached Kyle Roark, then 19, in the rear of the store and twice hit him with the tire iron that he had concealed in a bag.

Mr. Dugan, who later was quoted by a sheriff's deputy as saying he "felt terrible" about the incident, does not have a prior criminal record. He pleaded no contest last week to aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Mr. Roark was not seriously injured.

The defendant went to Winn-Dixie searching for another store employee with the first name of Kyle who he suspected of having a sexual relationship with an underage relative. A subsequent investigation of the allegation by the sheriff's department determined it was unfounded.

He apparently knew neither Kyle by sight, and attacked Mr. Roark on the basis of a name tag with only his first name displayed.

"Do you want to have sex with my [relative]?" Mr. Dugan was

quoted as asking Mr. Roark before striking him.

"I don't know you or your [relative]," replied the employee.

Mr. Dugan, according to a witness, apologized to the victim after realizing the mistaken identity, then hurriedly left the store to a waiting vehicle of a friend.

Police noted he had a pistol in the vehicle, and Mr. Dugan has a carry permit. The pistol was not brought into the store.

Judge Rosier recommended that Mr. Dugan be placed in a faith-based prison and ordered a 10-year probation upon release. He is obligated for 25 hours of community service and will undergo an anger management evaluation.

In other case dispositions during that regular court session: Daniel Bell pleaded no contest to possession and attempted possession of chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and was given a year in county jail less time served.

Following release, he will be on probation one year. Judge Rosier ordered him to prepare a written report on the dangers of manufacturing meth.

Lucious Jackson will serve an eight-month jail sentence in return for his no contest plea to violating probation in 2010 cases for criminal mischief, burglary and petty theft.

He was also ordered to pay a \$250 investigative fee. In another probation violation case, Bruce Minor will serve a six-month jail term and

The new policy requires that property owners seeking fee waivers must fill out an application and sign a notarized affidavit saying they do not have property insurance to cover the disposal costs.

The policy also gives member county commissions the authority to approve or deny such requests. When a county commission approves a fee waiver, the applicable tipping fees will be deducted from the member county's "host fees," the monthly payments budgeted each fiscal year to member counties.

Baker County's host fees total \$225,000 this year. Previously, the New River board voted on fee waivers. The lost revenue, however, impacted the association's budget, not that of member counties.

The association addressed the matter at the urging of auditors, who have noted for the last three years that the landfill has been waiving tipping fees in violation of state law.

Tipping fees may only be waived for nonprofit organizations that recycle at least 50 percent of their waste and distribute donated goods.

"This will get us legal and we would no longer be in violation of the statute, and you would still have the control," Mr. O'Neal told commissioners.

The change will take effect October 1.

The board also voted to waive the tipping fees for a home destroyed by fire in Union County.

Since 2007, \$6,362 in tipping fees have been waived for Baker County residents, \$54,538 for Bradford County residents and \$1,035 for Union County residents.

In other business:

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Woman is beaten at store

A criminal complaint was filed against a Macclenny woman who allegedly beat a juvenile female outside the Kangaroo convenience store on US 90 east.

Deputy Randy Davis said he responded to the scene about 1 am on March 8 and the victim, 17, had facial abrasions and bruising which she said were inflicted when the assailant, Brooke Griffis, 18, of Macclenny punched her with a close fist.

The victim said she was seated in a vehicle at the time. A store clerk called police when he witnessed the attack. She was treated at Fraser Hospital.

Sgt. Davis said he made several attempts to contact Ms. Griffis at her north Macclenny address.

A 29-year-old female patient at Northeast Florida State Hospital was named in complaints for alleged attacks on one employee and two other female patients in late February and earlier this month.

In the first incident the morning of February 28, the accused grabbed the throat of Francine Collette, 42, of St. George, GA and struck her several times in the head.

On March 5, police were again called to the hospital and told the same woman attacked the patients, ages 33 and 38. The first one she struck in the face and the second was pulled by the hair from her wheelchair.

The younger female suffered a fractured facial bone.

In other case dispositions during that regular court session: Daniel Bell pleaded no contest to possession and attempted possession of chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and was given a year in county jail less time served.

Following release, he will be on probation one year. Judge Rosier ordered him to prepare a written report on the dangers of manufacturing meth.

Lucious Jackson will serve an eight-month jail sentence in return for his no contest plea to violating probation in 2010 cases for criminal mischief, burglary and petty theft.

He was also ordered to pay a \$250 investigative fee. In another probation violation case, Bruce Minor will serve a six-month jail term and

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Domestic complaints Mother-son, mother-girlfriend

Deputies went to a residence on Ridge Estates west of Glen St. Mary twice in three days and filed complaints for domestic battery against a mother and a son who was renting a room at the address.

In the first instance, the afternoon of March 5, the complaint was filed against Justin Parmley, 28, for allegedly slamming a door on the hand of his mother Elise, 67, during an argument that ensued after she entered a room rented by the son and his girlfriend Tara McDuffie.

Deputy Johnny Hodges filed the complaint after collecting conflicting statements on the sequence of events.

The couple's infant child was present during the altercation, said the deputy.

On March 7 about 12:20 am, Deputy Jeremiah Combs was back at the residence following another disturbance between the mother and son.

He filed a complaint against Mrs. Parmley for allegedly pushing Ms. McDuffie, causing her to drop the child. The couple refused to allow a rescue team to transport the baby to Fraser Hospital for observation.

In other domestic-related cases: • Jason Amerson, 29, of Glen was arrested early on March 7 for violating a protection order obtained by his estranged wife Cassandra, 28, also of Glen.

Ms. Amerson and two witnesses told Deputy Brandon Kiser that the suspect followed her to Mac's Liquors on US 90 in downtown Macclenny and stayed briefly in the parking lot.

• A complaint for domestic battery was filed

against Joel Williams, 33, for allegedly pushing past estranged wife Kimberly, 28, to gain entry to her residence on Bob Burnsed Rd. north of Glen.

Ms. Williams told Deputy Tony Norman her ex-husband showed up about 12:40 am on March 12 to retrieve a stereo. She had earlier advised him not to come without an escort from the sheriff's department.

When he came alone, she attempted to bar Mr. Williams from entry and after both were questioned by the deputy she filed the complaint for battery.

The deputy also advised she sought an order banning Mr. Williams from the property.

• Deputy Koty Crews filed domestic battery complaints against both parties following a confrontation at a residence on Katie Johnson Lane near Sanderson about 3 am on March 12.

James Crews, 22, and his girlfriend Magen Finley, 21, both told Deputy Crews they were struck with a belt during an argument in a laundry room.

• A complaint was filed March 10 alleging that Michael Hamilton Jr., 27, of Macclenny attacked live-in girlfriend Natalie Flynt, 25, at their 8th St. address.

Ms. Flynt and other witnesses said Mr. Hamilton returned home drunk about 3:50 am and placed her in a choke hold during an argument. He is also accused of striking her in the presence of two young children.

Deputy Koty Crews said Mr. Hamilton fled the premises before he arrived.

Meth lab found in a metal shed...

From page 1

James Newmans on Auzzie Harvey Rd. near Taylor and arrested Samantha Layfield, 32, who admitted to purchasing key meth ingredient pseudo-ephedrine from Walgreens in Macclenny earlier that afternoon.

Mr. Burnham allegedly paid her \$50 to make the purchase.

Earlier, police were tipped off about Mr. Burnham's manufacturing operation by Melinda Duncan, 37, of Macclenny, described as the suspect's longtime girlfriend.

According to Investigator Crews, Ms. Duncan came to the attention of police because of 21 purchases of pseudo-ephedrine, most of them in 2011. There is a national database that tracks buyers of the over-the-counter ingredient.

Ms. Duncan admitted buying the drug for her boyfriend, adding that she also did so on "four or five occasions" for Mr. Burnham's sister and for another woman who received a small amount of meth in return.

Ms. Duncan and Ms. Layfield were both arrested for making the purchases with knowledge of their intended use.

• Matthew Hallicy, 22, of Jacksonville was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and a smoking pipe after a deputy stopped him early on March 6 for rolling through a stop sign in north Macclenny.

Deputy Steven Smith said he detected an odor of marijuana in the suspect's Chevrolet SUV when he stopped it on Ivy St. just before 2 am.

• Sharon Soper, 48, an employee at the Country Club Lounge on South 6th, was arrested for disorderly intoxication the afternoon of March 10 when she refused to cooperate when ordered to leave the building.

Deputy Robert Simpkins was called to the lounge after Ms. Soper removed her top and refused several requests by the manager to leave.

The officer said Ms. Soper cursed at him and was uncooperative when escorted to her apartment behind the lounge.

Re-arrest

ing what police then described as a "mobile meth lab."

Also in his 1998 Chevrolet pickup that afternoon were three children ages 1, 3 and 7 that reportedly belonged to Ms. Grimes and her mother.

The defendant was released on bond because the state attorney's office had yet to file formal charges against him within the 40-day period required by Florida law.

Prosecutors have since done that and Mr. Mann faces charges from the December arrest of manufacturing meth, possession of ingredients, three counts of cruelty to children, fleeing police and driving on a suspended license.

In the latest case, investigators found evidence that Mr. Mann was once again in the meth business, though he denied it and insisted the materials found on the Durland property were left over from when he taught an unnamed acquaintance how to "cook" the drug.

Investigator John Hardin's report indicates police were tipped off by Ms. Grimes' landlord, who found a backpack with ingredients in a pump house.

They included muriatic acid, camping fuel, coffee filters, rubber hoses, cold compresses and aluminum foil.

The pseudo-ephedrine [Sudafed] allegedly purchased by the younger Ms. Grimes was found in a vehicle.

A national registry indicated she purchased the ephedrine on February 20, 25 and 29, and Ms. Grimes admitted during an interview it was for her mother's boyfriend.

She also admitted she used some of the drug in exchange for making the purchases.

Mr. Mann has a lengthy criminal record in Baker County that includes convictions for grand theft auto, burglary, theft and forgery.

An acquaintance of the older Ms. Grimes said she has four minor children living at the address.

River clean-up this Saturday

JOEL ADDINGTON

NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com



Photo by Joel Addington. A beer can at the Boyscout Camp.

The St. Mary's River clean-up will take place the morning of March 17 at the Steel Bridge Road boat ramp as usual, but the celebration and lunch following the clean-up has been moved from its former location at White Oak Plantation.

Baker County cleanup leader Greg Sheppard said the after-cleanup festivities will be at Trader's Hill Campground near Folkston this year because the Yulee plantation is no longer sponsoring the event.

"Financially, they can't do it," he said.

The four-hour cleanup will start at 8 am at 27 sites along the St. Mary's River in Florida and Georgia, including the Steel Bridge Road site commonly called the boy scout camp. It's one of the few public access points to the river in Baker County.

The annual cleanup is organized and sponsored by the St. Mary's River Water Management Committee and its member counties. The committee consists of representatives from Baker and Nassau counties in Florida and Charlton and Camden counties in Georgia.

Additional sponsors include Nassau County Farm Bureau, Schwend Insurance Agency, Keep Nassau Beautiful and Advanced Disposal, which donates roll-off containers to collect the garbage, said Dean Woehrl, a retired farm bureau agent whose coordinated the cleanup and celebration since it began 15 years ago.

"That's probably the biggest expense," he said of the roll-off containers.

Participants will be treated to hotdogs, hamburgers, water and sodas at Trader's Hill following the cleanup.

"We'll go over the numbers of what everybody picked up and see what the most unusual stuff was," said Mr. Woehrl. "It's a little social gathering we have afterwards to eat and share stories."

Volunteers for the Baker

cleanup can arrive at the Steel Bridge Road boat ramp the morning of March 17 and participate, but pre-registration is needed for those interested in receiving lunch and a T-shirt.

"We're expecting a decrease [in participation] this year due to the economy," said Mr. Sheppard. "We don't have the sponsorships we had in years past so we don't expect to draw as many folks."

He hopes that Baker County residents will use the day to not only pickup litter and other waste from the banks of the St. Mary's River, but clean-up other areas as well.

"I think that would help us as a community and show that people do want to have a clean environment and not just have the prisoners doing all the cleaning

Suspect runs, caught by canine twice

A Glen St. Mary burglary and theft suspect is in county jail this week charged with running from police twice on consecutive days, the second time while handcuffed and in leg irons.

Chad Green, 18, received lacerations and bruising both times when he was taken down by a sheriff's canine.

Mr. Green was suspected in the theft of a iPad and vehicle in Jacksonville on March 5 when the device "pinged" its location off Mud Lake Rd. at the residence of the suspect's mother Melisa

Green on Earnie Mae Griggs Lane.

Deputy Jeremiah Combs and Sgt. Phil Duval went to the address shortly after 11 pm and soon the suspect drove up on Mud Lake, then sped away west.

With Deputy Combs in pursuit, he led officers on the first of two high-speed chases along Bill Davis Rd., Reid Stafford and into Pine Ridge Estates where they lost sight of him.

Shortly after, the suspect's white Honda was spotted on US 90 near Smokey Rd., where Deputy Patrick McGauley gave chase at speeds exceeding 80 mph along Stafford to CR 229, when officers backed off after learning the Mr. Green's 17-year-old pregnant girlfriend was also in the Honda.

They tailed him back to the mother's residence where the suspect took off running. He was captured in a wooded area about 150 yards off by Deputy McGauley's canine Tango.

The next afternoon, Mr. Green again attempted to escape, this time by jumping from the vehicle of Investigator Steve Harvey while it was traveling an estimated 55 mph on Mud Lake.

The investigator and a Jacksonville detective agreed to take the suspect to where he claimed to have stashed the iPad, and he somehow freed himself of a seat belt and unlocked the right rear passenger door before bailing out of the vehicle.

This time Deputy McGauley was again in the area with other

officers, and released the canine on Mr. Green a second time. He was lying in water not far off Mud Lake, and the deputy said he attempted this time to hold the dog's muzzle underwater.

Deputy McGauley noted he struck the suspect to force him to ease his grip on the dog, and he surrendered.

He is charged in Jacksonville with two counts of grand theft, and in Baker County with escape, felony resisting via the high-speed chase and attempting to harm the police dog.

Mr. Green was treated by EMS teams at both scenes, then checked out at Fraser Hospital after jumping from the car. He is being held without bail.

In another arrest, deputies followed a Macclenny man from the county courthouse the morning of March 6 when he drove off after being warned not to because of a suspended license.

Deputy Daniel Nichols of the courthouse security detail, said Willie Winton Jr., 51, initially agreed to have someone else drive him home from a court hearing when informed that police were aware of his license status.

The officer said he was walking back to the building when he saw the suspect drive away in his 2007 Dodge pickup. He was arrested at his Grissholm St. residence and charged with resisting police in addition to the license violation.

Several persons were arrested the past week on outstanding

Neighbor arrested after burglary try on Woodlawn Rd.

A male juvenile who lives nearby was arrested the afternoon of March 10 for attempting to break into a home on Woodlawn Rd.

Marsha Williams told Deputy Jeremiah Combs she was napping when she heard knocking on several doors about 3:30, followed by the sound of breaking glass. She went to her kitchen and confronted the youth, with whom she is acquainted, standing outside a pair of French doors holding a large rock he used to break one of the window panes.

The boy fled the scene in a light colored truck parked nearby and Ms. Williams gave police a description of the vehicle.

The suspect was located and arrested at a residence in the neighborhood where he had gone with his mother. He was returned to the scene and identified by Ms. Williams.

He was booked at county jail for attempted burglary, a felony, and criminal mischief.

A number of other burglaries and thefts, most of them at unoccupied premises, were reported the past week.

The value of an air conditioner, lawn mower, trailer, tiller and other items taken from the residence of Nathan Burnsed off Moccasin Creek near Baxter was placed at \$8500.

The victim's son Gary Burnsed, a retired county deputy, told sheriff's investigator Steve Harvey the theft occurred between February 17 and March 2. The owner no longer resides there.

• John Mills reported two paintings and six fishing rods stolen from his residence off Bob Kirkland Rd. northwest of Macclenny between noon on March 6 and 5:30 the next afternoon.

Mr. Mills was in the process of moving back after renters vacated the home, and left the property inside. The loss value was estimated at \$1480. Two bicycles left outside were also gone.

• Shirley Covington returned to her Timberlane Dr. home in north Macclenny on March 7 to find two men changing the locks, and later that day told Deputy Robert Aberly she determined that a television, jewelry, a camera and possibly a blank check were missing.

One of the men changing the locks, Christopher Ford of Middleburg, showed the deputy paperwork authorizing him to be on the property, which is undergoing foreclosure. The deputy noted the interior appeared to be ransacked.

Ms. Covington placed the loss value at \$750. She denied the property was in foreclosure and said she had worked out an alternate mortgage agreement.

• Marshall Collingwood returned to his property off Clarence Dobbs Rd. on March 5 to find copper wire with an estimated \$200 stripped from a power pole. He had last been there three days earlier.

• Finley Wolfe reported a .22 caliber pistol taken from his residence on Jerry Johns Rd. south of Macclenny. He believes the theft occurred during the first half of February and he reported it on March 9.

• Sarah Holman said a washer and dryer were removed from her vacant residence on Turner Cemetery Rd. between February 28 and March 4. She reported the loss the following day and said the units belonged to Aaron's rent-to-own.

Had pot at school

A 15-year-old male student at Baker County Middle School was released to a guardian following his arrest the afternoon of March 9 for misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Campus deputy Matt Riegel said administrators received a tip early that afternoon that the student, who is from the Glen St. Mary area, had a small baggie of the drug.

They found it during a subsequent search.

In another recent incident at the middle school, a 14-year-old female was charged with battery on two other students following a confrontation that started the morning of March 5 over a Facebook posting.

The accused jumped another female, 13, and struck her several times during the 7:20 am incident. She then allegedly turned on another female, also 13, who came to the aid of the first girl.

• A Baker High student, 17, reported her wallet and contents were stolen from a backpack placed near the gymnasium doors during a track meet the evening of March 8.

She left the immediate area when a fight broke out, the victim told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite, and when she returned she found the backpack had been opened and the wallet missing.

• A complaint for battery was filed by Deputy Earl Lord on March 7 following a complaint by a mother that her daughter, 8, was accosted by another female, age 11, at a north Macclenny school bus stop.

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River clean-up this Saturday

ment place for the celebration, if we can talk the county into doing something here and alternate every other year or something like that, we could have a St. Mary's River celebration here, too," said Mr. Sheppard. "The challenge will be getting people on the river here in Baker County."

For more information, or to register a group, family or individual, call Mr. Sheppard at 259-1791 or Dean Woehrl at (904) 910-2531.

The four-county effort collects on average some 50,000 pounds of trash each year.

"My site captains say it's not looking as bad as in years past," he said. "So for the first time, we may not have that much this year."

Volunteers should also avoid wearing sandals.

"If we get them, we have to pay the disposal fee and we don't have the money right now," he said. "It's a challenge; we know they're out there and we're looking for somebody in the four-county community to step up and help us process the tires."

For the first 12 years of the event, Mr. Woehrl said, a Nassau County tire store accepted the tires for disposal. After the store was bought by a national chain, the good will ended.

Given the roughly 40 miles separating Baker County and Trader's Hill near Folkston, Mr. Sheppard said the clean-up and lunch may work better at St. Mary's Shoals Park north of Glen St. Mary, the only other public access point to the river here.

That will have to wait until next year, however.

"My hope is that one day, if Trader's Hill becomes the perma-

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Leaving a Legacy Scholarship Dinner. Honoring Tom & Joanne Covington and Mary Finley. Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:30 p.m. Family Life Center of First Baptist Church of Macclenny. Tickets on sale for \$25 per person at the School Superintendent's Office 259-0428 & the Chamber of Commerce 259-6433.

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.

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Jayce Cady dies at three months old

Jayce LeaHann Cady, 3 months old, of Fort Polk, Louisiana died March 4, 2012. She was born at Fort Polk to Lauren Scott Cady and Bethanie Lee Wunschel Cady on November 11, 2011.



Jayce Cady

Survivors include loving parents; brother Jaiden Scott Cady; paternal grandparents Urban Chester and Malisa Dawn Cady of Macclenny; maternal grandmother Theresa May Wunschel; paternal great-grandparents Buddy and Brenda Wright; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral service will be held Monday, March 12 at 11 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel of Macclenny with Re. Joe Vianna officiating. Interment followed in Oak Grove Cemetery in Macclenny.

Leland Rheuark 62, of Jacksonville

Leland T. Rheuark, 62, of Jacksonville died March 6, 2012. He was born in Loris, SC to the late Calhoun Rheuark and Mary McDowell Rheuark on October 4, 1949.

Survivors include son Mark Rheuark of Macclenny; brothers Donald, Lloyd, Paul and Pete Rheuark, all of Thomasville, NC; sister Florine Rheuark of Georgetown, SC; grandchildren Marlee and Katelyn Rheuark of Macclenny.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Sharon Shirey, 64, of Jacksonville dies

Sharon Combs Shirey, 64, of Jacksonville died March 12, 2012. She was born in Jacksonville to the late Frank W. Williams and Willomae Newmans Williams on April 17, 1947.



Sharon Shirey

Survivors include her loving husband Ken Shirey of Jacksonville; children Scott Carns of Macclenny and Stephen Combs of Glen St. Mary; brother Jerol "Buddy" Williams of Yukon, OK; six grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 17 at 10:00 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel of Macclenny with pastors Charlie Rumpel and Jerol "Buddy" Williams officiating. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny. The family will receive friends on Friday, March 16 from 6-8 pm at the funeral home.

Mary Jo Thomas 54, of Macclenny

Mary Jo Thomas, 54, of Macclenny died March 8, 2012 with her family at her side. She was born in Quincy, FL to C.J. and Mae Brock on January 12, 1958.



Mary Jo Thomas

Mrs. Thomas graduated from Florida State University with an undergraduate degree in elementary education and received a masters in elementary education from the University of North Florida. Mary Jo's first love was the Lord and she served as the first lady of Christian Fellowship Temple by her husband's side. She was a fabulous cook and loved her Sunday dinners spent with her family, always including a dessert. She loved the vacations spent at the beach, shopping with her girls on Saturdays, spending time with her grandchildren and her church family.

Survivors include loving husband David Thomas; parents Clayton Jackson and Mae Stinson Brock; children Kristen (Jay) Dyal, Katie (Adam) Wilford, Kailyn (Matt) Wilson, Danielle (Scott) Lyons and Tyler Thomas; sisters Kim Hough, Janine Branch and Jolynda Chenicek; grandchildren Hannah Dyal, Hank Dyal, Avery Lyons and soon to be born Mary Anna Wilford.

The funeral service was held on Monday, March 12 at 3:00 pm at her church with Pastor David Griffin, Gary Crummeay and Jim Bob Register officiating, and a eulogy by Sherrie Raulerson. Interment followed in Oak Grove Cemetery in Macclenny. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Williams, 85, of Moniac, GA

Daisybelle Thrift Williams, 85, of Moniac, GA died Sunday, March 11, 2012 at Acosta-Rau Center for Caring in Jacksonville following a short illness. She was born in Moniac and lived there all of her life. She was a sales clerk at the former Daisybelle Williams Covin Five and Ten Store in Macclenny for many years and was a member of Moniac Baptist Church. She enjoyed cooking and having fellowship with her family. She was preceded in death by her parents Nathan and Lula Sands Thrift.



Daisybelle Williams

Survivors include husband of 67 years Melvin Williams of Moniac; son Randy (Irene) Williams of St. George; grandchildren Becky Adair and Stacy Guerrero of St. George; eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 2 pm Tuesday, March 13 at her church with Rev. Tim Colvin officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Cemetery in Macclenny. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Heartfelt thanks

The family of Brian Hodges would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, food, prayers and love during our time of loss. A special thank you to Hank and Dana Forbes for all you did during this difficult time. Monetary donations were greatly appreciated. Local churches were a blessing. Area businesses and employers of family, thank you all. Thanks to Brother Albert Starling for your special words, and to friends and family for your generosity and love that can only be found in Baker County.

The Hodges family Carolyn & Ronald Plymel

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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.fbfcofsanderson.org



In loving memory of Coy M. Shumate Sr.

We thought of you with love today, but this is nothing new. We thought of you yesterday and days before that, too. We think of you in silence and often speak your name. All we have now are our memories and your picture in a frame. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. A part of you went with you the day God took you home. God has you in His keeping and we have you in our hearts.

LOVED AND MISSED, PEARL, WAYNE, LINDA, SHARON, MERVIN, DENISE, CONNIE, KIM AND STEVE

We print obituaries with a picture free of charge.

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH CR 127 N. of Sanderson Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm Pastor Allen Crews Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church

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

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church

121 North 259-4461 Macclenny, FL Pastor Tim Chesbire Sunday School 9:45 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm

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

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr. Sunday School 10:00 am Preaching Service 11:00 am Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

523 North Boulevard W.

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

Maximum strength analgesic for temporary relief from: Back pain, Muscle pain, Arthritis pain, Joint pain. Go Painlessly with THERA-GESIC.

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

THE LORD'S CHURCH Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor •• 259-8353 Sunday school ~ 10:00 am Sunday service ~ 11:00 am Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm Family style dinner ~ 1st Sunday of the month following service 'A church alive is worth the drive!' Pastor Bobby & Raye Griffin

Giddens - Reed 270 US Highway 301 N. • Baldwin FL 32234 www.giddensreedfb.com 904-266-2337 Baldwin 904-387-0055 Jacksonville Arrangements made in your home or our facility Fair & Reasonable Prices Funeral & Cremation Services Locally Owned & Family Operated Proudly Serving Northeast Florida

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Forbes Funeral Home 1171 South 6th Street | Macclenny, Florida 259-4600 Our Family Serving Your Family Direct cremation \$995 Traditional funeral starting at \$4995 Dedicated to serving you and your family in your time of need. Providing the most affordable services in the area. FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED H.M. Hank Forbes, Jr. LFD/Owner Dana Forbes Hawke Forbes



In loving memory of Albert Eddy

2/1/25 - 3/14/11 When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see. If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today, while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say. I know how much you love me, as much as I love you. And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too. But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand. And said my place was ready in Heaven far above, and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But when I walked through Heaven's gates I felt so much at home, when God looked down and smiled at me from His golden throne. He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you, for today life on earth is past but here it starts anew."

I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last. Each day is the same way, there's no longing for the past. So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me I'm right there in your heart.

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU, CORRINE, TOMMY AND GINA, JERRY AND SANDRA, CHRIS AND TERESA

In loving memory of Albert Eddy

2/1/25 - 3/14/11 This is your first year in Heaven and how glorious it must be. Seeing all your friends and loved ones you have so longed to see. When God called you home it surely broke our hearts, but now you have a body with all new parts.

We miss your smile, laugh, jokes and essence, still having you here in our very presence. I can just see you playing your fiddle in the angel band, because you have experienced the touch of the Master's hand.

You were a wonderful father. Oh so humble, you could melt my heart and make it crumble. The life and love you left behind is a token, "I love you too baby," your last words spoken. Until the day when we are reunited, just memories will be no more, I am so excited!

I MISS YOU AND LOVE YOU, TERESA

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



Calling of an Angel In loving memory of Ralph Lee Ruise Sr

7/9/1944 - 3/14/04

One day God decided to call a perfect person to be His next angel. My father was the face He viewed as the angel sitting next to Him. That day was eight years ago. Then one day I heard an angel say, that every day. "The sun, the wind, the moon, the stars will forever be around reminding us of the love he shared and the peace he finally found." I knew it was his spirit speaking. Your spirit has become a guardian angel on high - guiding, advising and watching over the family.

When we saw you sleeping so calm and free of pain, we did not wish you back to earth to suffer. We were left with your precious memories; your love will be and has been our guides. You continue to live on through your wife, children and grandchildren; you're always on our minds and in our hearts. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. For part of us went with you on the day God called you home. We will always remember you and know you are with us and we are not afraid of the visitation you give us.

LOVE, THE FAMILY

Benefit dinner

A dinner benefit will take place at Road to Calvary church in Glen on March 17 and 24 beginning from 10 am to 5 pm to support Margie Howard. Margie is the youth leader for the church and needs a liver transplant. For more information call 904-382-7086. For large orders call 259-1448 and leave message.

Check it out... bakercountypress.com

The Town of Glen St. Mary's regular monthly meeting is being MOVED to Monday, March 19, 2012 7:00 P.M.

FIRST COAST CRIME STOPPERS CRIME DOESN'T PAY BUT WE DO! REWARDS UP TO \$1,000 REMAIN ANONYMOUS 1-866-845-TIPS (8477) www.fccrimestoppers.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT COLLIER

Blooming azaleas abound

The popular and signature Southern color burst has descended on the Baker County area with the annual flowering azaleas, no less present than in the spacious yard of Velma and Dennie Andrews in Old Nursery Plantation south of Glen St. Mary. The Andrews' property was selected as the Garden of the Month by the Garden Club of Baker County. Their well-groomed azaleas stand beside the lawn and foundation plants including several topiary trees and other landscape plants. The Andrews work as a team, Velma with the weeding and Dennie the trimming and mowing. To learn more about the Garden Club or nominate a Garden or Yard of the Month, call 259-2754 or 259-6844.

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We print obituaries with a picture free of charge.

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

Evangel Temple Assembly of God

5755 Ramona Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32205 www.evangeltempleag.org Facebook.com/etacentral Pastors Garry and Cecil Wiggins

Sunday Service Times: 8:15 am and 10:45 am - "God's Purpose for My Life" Join us at our Sunday evening service at 6 pm

VeggieTales Live! GOD MADE YOU SPECIAL

Friday, March 23 6:00 pm at Evangel Temple Tickets are \$10 and selling quickly!

Everyone needs a church family. Visit one of the great churches in the area today! 4/15/12 Visit our Southwest Campus- 5040 C.R. 218 | Middleburg

Advertising Networks of Florida Classified • Display • Metro Daily • Online The key to advertising success 1-866-742-1373 www.florida-classifieds.com

Who's ready for Kindergarten? Do you have a child who will be enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2012/2013 school year? The Baker County School system will be offering free Kindergarten Readiness Workshops Let us help make the transition into kindergarten exciting! The following workshops will be offered: March 27 Book Fair, participate in resource rotation, "Clifford's First School Day" book. April 19 Nurse and Guidance Counselor- "The Carrot Seed" and planting activity. All workshops will be held 6 - 7 pm at the Baker County Pre-K/ Kindergarten Center and taught by 4 kindergarten teachers. Your child will receive school supplies and four books. Please call 259-0405 to register your child before each workshop. We encourage you to attend all four sessions!

The Baker County Press

Classifieds

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Call 904-259-2400

Hours to place, correct or cancel ads: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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BY WEBSITE

www.bakercountypress.com

DEADLINES

Placement, correction or cancellation of classified ads may be done by phone, e-mail or in person anytime before Monday at 5 p.m. for publication on the following Thursday.

Classified ads and notices must be paid in advance, and be in our office no later than 4:00 pm the Monday preceding publication...

ANIMALS

Free 15 month old Border Collie, purebred, no papers. 904-397-0770 or 904-955-5958. 3/15p

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

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers:

The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products...

FOR RENT

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

5 acres and doublewide mobile home, rent to own or for sale. 904-923-1241. 3/8-15p

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.landys.net. 6/30tfc

7 1/2 acres, prime property, cleared with large oak trees off Odys Yarrowbough Rd, \$87,000, 259-5877. 2/9tfc

3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, house, 18 month lease, on 713 Long Drive, \$835/month, \$750 deposit, 259-9737 or 838-8584. 2/23tfc

Two properties Rent to Own: 3/2 doublewide in Macclenny \$750/month plus deposit. 3/2 doublewide with workshop, fenced for horses \$850/month plus deposit. Service animals only 904-477-8995. 3/8-15p

14 x 70, 2 BR, 2 BA, CH/A, with appliances, in the country, clean, 7 miles from Macclenny, 5 miles from Glen. \$600/month, \$600 deposit. 259-6966. 3/15p

1 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments available in Macclenny. Quiet established neighborhood, service pets only. \$500-\$550 per month, deposit required. Call 259-8444 for more information. \$100 off first 2 months rent to qualified applicants. 1/19tfc

1 BR apartment, \$450/month, \$300 deposit. Call after 5 pm. 904-322-0310. 3/8-22p

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

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 1 acre on 125 south, pole barn, fish pond, fenced property, lawn maintenance included. \$850/month, \$1150 deposit, 259-9066. 12/29tfc

2 BR, 1 BA house in Sanderson, \$600/month, \$600 deposit. Service animals only. 275-3136. 3/15-22p

Mobile homes, 2 and 3 BR, A/C, service animals only. \$500-\$75 plus deposit. 904-460-4604. 9/1tfc

Furnished apartment, great location, 249 N. 7th St., utilities included, available 4/1. \$550/month, first and last up front. 259-2797 or 904-910-7273. 3/15p

REAL ESTATE

Notice to Readers

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

Washer and dryer works \$125. Call 912-266-1641. 3/8p

Artists. Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more. On sale now. The Office Mart, 110 S. Fifth Street, 259-3737. 1tfc

GE washer/dryer, 3 months old, matching set \$600, large capacity; coffee and end tables, wood and wrought iron \$75; computer desk \$25; microwave \$30. 912-843-8297. 3/15p

Liquor license for sale in Baker County. 229-506-9533. 3/15p

5th wheel camper, 29', super slide out, clean. 1998 Wildwood by Forest River, \$8500. 904-654-4930. 3/15-22p

AUTOMOBILES

1997 Ford F150 4x4, runs great \$2200. Call 259-6767 or 904-477-5850. 3/8-15p

1999 Suburban LTZ, 4x4, great car, runs great, new battery, good tires, full maintenance records, \$5000. 912-281-5415 or 653-1555. 3/8-15p

1987 Chrysler 318, low miles on engine and transmission. Come drive it home, \$475. Call 904-571-0913. 3/15p

2005 Kia Spectra, 4 door, hatchback, 300 mpg, great car, power windows and doors, 6000 miles. \$6500 OBO. 259-3049. 3/15p

MISCELLANEOUS

Alcoholics anonymous meetings Monday and Friday at 8 pm. Call Wanda 904-994-7750. 209 Macclenny Ave. 3/1-12/27p

Check it out... bakercountypress.com

YARD SALES

Friday and Saturday 8:00 am - 7, 520 Quail Lane, lots of household items. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 8:00 am - 7, 4394 Birch Street. Huge Sunday school sale, lots of furniture and items for all ages. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 7:00 am - 7, 6060 South River Circle. Proceeds from sale will fund Eagle Scout project. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, City Hall parking lot. Relay for Life yard sale. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 544 East Ohio Ave. Pool table, bunk beds, household items and clothing. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 1328 Copper Oaks Ct. Multi-family, boy's clothes, youth bed, household items, furniture, too much to list it all. 3/15-22p

Saturday only 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, off Montalona at Magnolia St., 3 families, clothes of all sizes, DVDs, too much to mention. 3/15-22p

COMMERCIAL FR

Professional office space for lease. Prime location on Hwy 121 Call 259-9022 for details. 11/31tfc

VACATION RENTALS

Smokey Mountain cabin, sleeps 6, near trout stream, near Cherokee, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Dollywood. \$350/week. 386-752-0013. 2/23-4/26p

COMMERCIAL RE

For sale or lease, 1900 SF commercial building, lots of parking space, 1 block from City Hall, hospital and courthouse. Call 259-6546 or 219-2842. 1/5tfc

MOBILE HOME

2008 Fleetwood 28x80, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2001 SF, T&T, full length back porch and carport, all appliances, \$75,000. 904-200-6749. 3/15-22p

2 BR, 1 BA mobile home on 1/2 acre. Deerwood Circle, \$42,500. Owner financing. Call 259-2555. 3/1tfc

28x64, 2x6 ext. walls, 2x4 int. walls, 5" crown, setup, delivery, steps, skirt, A/C. Was \$60,000, now \$55,000 with furniture. Call Kevin (386) 754-0198. 3/15c

No money down, use your land, huge 4 BR doublewide, 2012, \$499/month. Call 259-4663. 3/15-4/5c

New doublewide, 3 BR, 2 BA, set-up, delivered, steps, skirt, A/C. Was \$45,000, now \$40,000 with furniture. Call Ken (386) 754-0198. 3/15c

New 2012 3 BR, 2 BA doublewide, \$39,900 includes set-up and delivery, 259-4663. Wayne Frier Macclenny Factory Outlet, I-10 and exit 336. 3/15-4/5c

Garage Sale Yard Sale Tag Sale. Friday and Saturday 8:00 am - 7, 520 Quail Lane, lots of household items. Saturday only 8:00 am - 7, 4394 Birch Street. Saturday only 7:00 am - 7, 6060 South River Circle. Saturday only 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, City Hall parking lot. Saturday only 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 544 East Ohio Ave. Saturday only 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 1328 Copper Oaks Ct. Saturday only 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, off Montalona at Magnolia St.

News Obituaries Social Notices School News Classified Ads www.bakercountypress.com Have you checked it out lately?

Advertising Deadline Monday 5:00 pm NO EXCEPTIONS! NOW AVAILABLE 1 and 2 Bedrooms Baldwin Grove APARTMENTS 904-266-4070 T.T.D. 1-800-985-8771 Handicap Equipped RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Girls tie for 2nd at Baldwin

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

The Wildcat girls' track team turned in an impressive second place finish to Sandalwood on March 6 in a six-team meet at Baldwin. Sandalwood, a consistent area power, won the event with 164 points and the Lady Cats tied for second with St. Johns Country Day at 102 points.

Sandalwood was strong across the board and St. Johns dominated the distance events. The Cats were particularly strong in the field events. Joslyn Brown placed third in the 100 meters with a 14.10 finish. The 4-by-400 meter relay team won the event in 53.6 and the 4-by-1600 meter team won in 5:11. Kiala Pigott was third with 29.28 in the 200 meters.

Kasey Russell had an outstanding throw of 73'10" to win the discus and Ashley Suggs was fifth. Niesha Givens won the shot put with a 31'3" toss.

Chelsey Ruise won the high jump in 5'2" and the triple jump at 32 feet. Brown was second in the triple jump at 31'." Ruise was second in the long jump with a 16'3" leap.

The girls travel to Baldwin again on Thursday, March 15.

Thomas Sirk mingling with Peyton, Coach K

THOMAS SIRK | SPORTS

Thomas Sirk seems to be settling in well at Duke University. The Wildcat quarterback and new Blue Devil is learning his way around campus. He has classes with some of the Duke basketball stars and sees Coach Mike Krzyzewski on his walks around campus.

Manning is doing his rehab at Duke and Sirk got to throw the ball around the future Hall of Famer, sit around the film room with him and have lunch at the training table with the now former Colts star.

Speaking of Duke basketball and basketball in general, FSU notched its second win of the season over Duke and North Carolina on its way to their first-ever ACC basketball crown. The Seminoles are the third seed in the east regional.

The Noles looked great in the tournament. Coach Leonard Hamilton's teams have always been known for their defensive prowess, but this year they had the offensive artillery as well. It's the first time in almost a decade that a team has beaten Duke and North Carolina twice in the same season.

Florida played well in the SEC tournament but lost after a valiant effort against #1 Kentucky in the

Thomas Sirk mingling with Peyton, Coach K

THOMAS SIRK | SPORTS

semi-finals. The Gators are the seven seed in the west regional and are up against the Virginia Cavaliers in a very tasty game. The Cavs are the tenth seed and that should be a pretty even match-up.

Kentucky, Syracuse, Michigan St. and UNC have the top seeds. My Baylor Bears are the three seed after losing to Missouri in the Big 12 finals.

So who's going to the final four? In the South region, Kentucky is ev-er-around the film room with him and have lunch at the training table with the now former Colts star.

The West should go to Michigan State, but watch out for Missouri. They were dominating in the Big 12 final. North Carolina doesn't have a stroll in the park either with Kansas in their bracket.

Who will be the Cinderella? I'd like to say Murray State, with only one loss. Belmont, Davidson, UNLV and Colorado State could be this year's Virginia Commonwealth. Or it could be VCU itself.

That's what I love about March Madness. You just don't know till they lace up their sneakers.

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Boys place second

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

The Wildcat track team took a second place at its first home meet on March 8. Suwannee County won the four-way meet with the Cats finishing ahead of West Nassau and Ft. White.

Anthony James took third place in 200 meter with a 23.41 time. Matt Butcher was second in the 800 meter with 2:18.

Falon Lee placed third in the high jump with a leap of 5'10" while Jonathan Kinney placed second in the discus with a throw of 109.'

The Cats travel to Baldwin on Thursday, March 15.

Maximum strength analgesic for temporary relief from: Back pain Muscle pain Arthritis pain Joint pain Go Painlessly with THERA-GESIC.

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SOCIAL NOTICE SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Birth announcements, wedding notices and social events (military service notes and school graduations) must be submitted within four weeks of the event. All news and advertising must be submitted to the newspaper office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication, unless otherwise noted or arranged. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

CONTACT US

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

Submits winning poison poster Taylor student now competes as finalist

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A 10-year-old girl from Taylor won first place this month in a regional poster contest sponsored by Florida/USVI Poison Information Center in Jacksonville as part of National Poison Prevention Week.

Hannah Wilford's colorful poster of a man dressed in overalls fishing beside a lake with the slogan — "Don't mess around with poisons ... or you'll be fishing for trouble!" — will be sent on to the national contest at the Poison Prevention Week Council in Alexandria, Virginia and could become part of the national advertising campaign.

The fourth grader at Keller Intermediate School was among 50 students selected from more than 200 who entered posters in the contest from 42 counties in the northern part of the state and US Virgin Islands.

The 50 finalists, including Keller students Lacey Nordstrom and Alexandra Oakes, joined each other for a recognition ceremony in the Charter Theatre at UF&Shands Jacksonville campus the evening of March 1.

Winners were chosen for first, second and third places as well as honorable mention. Hannah Wilford won first place in the third through fifth grade division, but many names were called before hers because all students in attendance were recognized.

The youth began to think

20th class reunion planned for August

The Baker County High School class of '92 will hold its 20-year reunion on Saturday, August 25 at the Hyatt Riverfront in Jacksonville.

The cost will be approximately \$60 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$30 per person must be paid to Tiffany Harvey McNamoy no later than Friday, March 30. The remainder will be due by July 1.

The evening includes dinner, music and a cash bar. Mail payment to Tiffany or drop it by Superior Cleaners, 709 South 6th St., Macclenny, FL 32063.

We will block off hotel rooms at the Hyatt for \$99 plus fees. The first 10 people to pay will be guaranteed this rate; \$100 due by March 30th will be necessary to hold a room and the remainder due by July 1. For more information call 259-2078.

Thank you, Jacob

I would like to thank the cart pusher at Walmart, Jacob, for being an honest employee. On my 70th birthday I left my purse in the cart and went back home. I went back expecting not to get it back but he had taken it to the service desk. Nothing was removed and it was just like I left it.

Sandra Rodgers

Family reunion

The Hardy and Carrie Hogan Rhoden family reunion will be Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm at Heritage Park in Macclenny. Call 904-266-4064 for more information.

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- Invitations

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PHOTO BY CARMELA NELSON/SHANDS JACKSONVILLE

they'd forgotten about her.

But when her name was finally spoken, her mother, Leila Wilford, said, "she stood up and was like, 'Yes!' She had the biggest smile on her face."

"She loves drawing, so this is a huge accomplishment for her," she said.

The annual contest and National Poison Prevention Week from March 18 to 24, now in its 50th year, are intended to raise awareness about the dangers

Hannah Wilford and her winning poster.

of poisons and preventing such risks.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center in Jacksonville is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-222-1222 for poisoning emergencies or to ask for information.

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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

March 15

BCHS: Rythmette Try-outs Clinic, 2:45 pm; Track at Baldwin, 3:30 pm; Tennis vs. Union County, 3:30 pm; Varsity Softball at Forrest, 6 pm; Junior Varsity Baseball vs Baldwin, 6 pm; Baseball at Bishop Kenny, 6 pm BCMS: Book Fair, After School Lab, 2:10-3:40 pm; Softball vs. Suwannee, 4:30 pm WES: Good Morning Show Club Meeting, 8 am; Tutoring/After School Reading Club, 3:15 pm MES: FCAT Fun Intervention-Reading PK/K: Pre-K Reading with Ronald

March 16

BCHS: Rythmette Try-outs, Gym, 3 pm; Baseball Tournament of Champions, TBA; Softball vs. Clay, 6 pm BCMS: Book Fair WES: Kite Day, 11 am - 2:55 pm MES: FCAT Fun Intervention-Reading PK/K: Positive Behavior Support Activity Day

March 17

Baseball Tournament of Champions, TBA; Boy's Track at Bob Hayes Invitational BCMS: FCAT Science Blitz, 8:30 am - 12 pm KIS: Reading FCAT Blitz, 8:45 am - 12 pm

March 19

District-wide: Olustee Volunteer Fire Department, 6:30 pm BCMS: Boy's Weightlifting Sectional Qualifier at Fort White, 2:30 pm; Junior Varsity Baseball at Suwannee Tournament, TBA BCMS: After School Lab, 2:10-3:40 pm; Softball at Hilliard, 6 pm KIS: FAIR Testing MES: FCAT Fun Intervention - Math; Journalism Club Meeting, 3:15 pm PK/K: Curefinders for Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser begins

March 20

BCMS: Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T) Test for 11th Grade; Track at Suwannee, 3:30 pm; Tennis at Bishop Kenny, 3:30 pm; Varsity and Junior Varsity Softball vs. West Nassau, 5 pm; Baseball vs. Fernandina, 7 pm; Junior Varsity Baseball at Suwannee Tournament, TBA BCMS: Softball at Hamilton, 4:30 pm KIS: FAIR Testing; Family Reading Night, 4-7 pm; School Advisory Council Meeting, 6-7 pm WES: Tutoring/After School Reading Club, 3:15 pm; "Just Say No!" Club Meeting, 8 am MES: FCAT Fun Intervention - Math; "Just Say No!" Club Meeting, 8 am; School Advisory Council Meeting, 8 am PK/K: Curefinders for Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser

SPORTS NOTICE SUBMISSIONS

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

CONTACT US

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

It's seven straight for Cats! Big tests upcoming

The Wildcat baseball team is riding a seven-game win streak, boosting its season record to 8-1 and 2-0 in the district.

BCHS beat Fernandina Beach 11-3 on March 8 with Hunter Hanks picking up the win on the mound and throwing four scoreless innings in relief of starter Jared Crews. Offensively, Hanks helped his cause with three hits. John Lambright also picked up three hits.

But the big offensive force was Ethan Wilkerson, who had a two-run homer and a two-run double.

The following night, the Cats shut out district rival Terry Parker 7-0 to move to 2-0 in the district. Brad Stone picked up his second win of the year and Austin Rowe and Jared Crews had two hits apiece. Lambright and Ethan Wilkerson added two-run singles.

"We played very well last week," said Coach Fred Matricardi. "We have a huge week this week. We go to Bishop Kenny on Thursday with first place in the district on the line."

Friday the Cats face another challenge when they take on North Florida Christian at UNF at 4 pm in the UNF Tournament of Champions. NFC is the defending 2 AA state champions. The Cats play Bishop Verot of Fort Myers on Saturday at 9 am, also at UNF.



Kyle Horne slides into home.

PHOTO BY JUD JONASSEN

Yulee shatters streak at 7 games

The Lady Wildcat softball team won its seventh straight game on March 8 with a 20-point win in a three-way meet with Keystone Heights and Suwannee County.

The defending state champion Wildcats scored 60 points to top Keystone Heights' 40 points and Suwannee, which had just 8 points.

Dalton Williams won in the 119-pound class with Louis Handte placing fourth. In the 129-pound class Dalton Jackson placed second and Brandon Harvey fourth. Brian Goldsmith placed second in the 139-pound class. Dalton Dyal was second and Brian Adkinson third in the 154-pound class.

Darius Green won the 169-pound class and Ricky Sharpe took second. Hunter Sullivan won the 183-pound class with Talmadge Turner placing third. In the 199-pound class Kendrick Singleton took second place and Josh Smallwood third place.

Jeremy Wannamaker won the 219-pound class and John Ryan Enlow was third. Terry Givens won the 238-pound class and CeCe Jefferson was second. The heavyweight class was won by Dillon Mills and Bodean Gray placed second. The Cats travel to Columbia High on Wednesday, March 14.

Yulee got the only score in the bottom of the fourth. The Lady Cats tried to rally in the top of the sixth but left Holton on third and Harvey on second.

The Lady Cats got on the scoreboard early against Paxon with a pair of first inning runs from Haley Crews and Tina Hauge, but the Eagles responded with a run of their own in the second to make it 2-1.

BCHS added some cushion in the third inning, scoring 4 runs on 6 hits. Crews, Shelby Gatto, Taylor Crumme and Clara Harvey all scored in the inning. Genie Taylor had a pair of RBIs. Paxon got a run back in the third.

Crumme and Harvey added insurance runs in the fifth inning and the Cats got four more in the bottom of the sixth. Kylie Holton doubled and scored. Crumme, Harvey and Taylor also scored. Haley Crews had 2 RBIs.

Crews went the distance for the win. She helped her effort by going 4 for 4 at the plate with 3 RBIs.

Strong opening for lifters

The Wildcat weightlifting team got its season started with a bang on March 5 with a 20-point win in a three-way meet with Keystone Heights and Suwannee County.

The defending state champion Wildcats scored 60 points to top Keystone Heights' 40 points and Suwannee, which had just 8 points.

Dalton Williams won in the 119-pound class with Louis Handte placing fourth. In the 129-pound class Dalton Jackson placed second and Brandon Harvey fourth. Brian Goldsmith placed second in the 139-pound class. Dalton Dyal was second and Brian Adkinson third in the 154-pound class.

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Braden Gray in the clean and jerk March 5.

PHOTO BY JUD JONASSEN

Bobcats split with Union, Hamilton

It was an up and down week for the Baker Middle School Lady Bobcat softball team, dropping a close game to Union County, rebounding the next day to pummel Hamilton County, getting shutout by Lake City and then winning against Lakeside at home.

Despite the shutout in Lake City on March 8, Coach Jon Mobley seemed most frustrated by the 5-4 loss to Union County Middle School on March 5.

"We opened up playing well," said Mobley. "But we let up later and the bats went cold."



Corley Sweat pitches in the 15-0 win at home against Hamilton.

The bats certainly weren't cold when the Bobcats took on Hamilton County Middle School on March 6. BCMS hit everything in sight on the way to a 15-0 win at home.

But the girls probably would have preferred to save some of that output for the game against Lake City Middle School when the Bobcats couldn't get anything going offensively and were blown out

10-0. The girls turned the tables again, however, with a 12-1 victory over Lakeside Middle School in six innings on March 12.

Darkness delays final

The phrase "the game is up in the air" is used frequently in sports, but it certainly is appropriate when describing last week's boys' tennis match between Hilliard and the Wildcats.

With the game tied 3-3 and the final deciding doubles match on the court, the game was called due to darkness on Hilliard's unlighted courts.

Both teams will be "up in the air" about who will be the winner until the final match can be replayed at BCMS on March 28. It was a neck and neck affair. Nick Dukeman lost 2-8 in the number one singles match but number two Sam Murphy scraped out an 8-5 win.

Jared Stafford lost 10-12 in a tiebreaker and Hunter Stavely won 8-3. Grant Burns put the Cats back on top with 3-2 with a tight 9-7 win in the finals singles match. Dukeman and Murphy lost 2-5 in the first singles match and with the clincher ready to take the court they ran out of light.

The girls' team had a much easier time versus its opponent from Hilliard, cruising to a 7-1 win. Kaylann Stafford lost 5-8 but Logan Raulerson came back for an 8-3 win. Tianna Raysor won 8-2 and Stephanie Gross won 8-1. Haileigh Latimer won the number five singles 8-2.

The doubles team of Stafford and Raulerson scratched out an 8-6 win and Raysor and Gross won 5-1 before losing the light.

The boys are 3-1 and the girls are 4-1 so far this season. The Cats host Union County on Thursday, March 15 with first serve at 3:30 pm.

Always remember. "It's not always all about the trophy you take but the memories you make."

CONGRATULATIONS!

Love, Mom and Dad

Peyton 3-10-12

Jared 3-11-12

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

International Coin Collectors are in Town Next Week to Purchase All Types of Coins

By KEN MCINTOSH
STAFF WRITER

ICCA will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1970. Those that do bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at by a specialist. With the help of these ICCA members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1970. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1970 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people, you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth, now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors Association, also known as ICCA. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If they are rare enough, one coin could be worth over \$100,000 according to Eric Helms coin collector and ICCA member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record \$1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICCA and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. "Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold," says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes and worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on even common coins made of silver. Helms explains, "All half dollars, quarter and dimes made before 1970 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market."

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These coins always bring big premiums according to the ICCA. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

Other types of items the ICCA will be purchasing during this event include U.S. currency, gold bullion,

investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also, at this event anyone can sell their gold jewelry, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell you will be paid on the spot – it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewelry and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So, whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free and if your lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way, there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

For more information on this event visit the ICCA website at www.internationalcoincollectors.com.



Here's How It Works:

- Gather items of interest from your attic, safe deposit box, garage, basement, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
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