

**Oak leaf hands  
Lady Cats loss  
in volleyball  
home opener**

See page 13



**Cancer survivor  
flooded with  
fabric for Relay  
for Life quilt**

See page 14



75¢

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 THURSDAY

# THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

83rd Year, Vol. 20 | Winner of 5 state awards for journalism excellence in 2011

## CIRCUIT COURT

### Gets life sentence for having child sex

A Macclenny man convicted by a jury in March on multiple counts of sexual battery with a child was given the mandatory life sentence in circuit court here on August 28.

The sentencing of David Hill, 38, had been postponed post-trial after his public defense counsel George Nelson filed a motion for a new trial based on alleged statements made by the victim in the case after she testified.



David Hill

Judge Phyllis Rosier denied the motion.

Mr. Hill, who has no criminal past, was arrested in March, 2011 after he failed a voice analysis test. He denied to sheriff's investigators allegations made by the victim, then a BCHS student, that he raped her on a regular basis for a decade.

The victim, who testified at the trial, recounted how Mr. Hill physically abused her, threatened her if she revealed anything about their relationship and abused her pets over the years before her friends coaxed her into telling a school official about it.

The court threw out a single count of lewd or lascivious battery, and the jury took a half hour following the day and a half trial before returning guilty verdicts on four counts of engaging in sexual activity with a child less than 12 years old and another charge of tampering with the victim-witness.

On the last count, the state presented evidence that Mr. Hill attempted via phone to get the victim to back off the allegations.

The defendant, a maintenance man at a local motel, did not testify in his defense.

In another case that day that resulted in a prison sentence, Melvin (Rusty) Mann, 30, of Sanderson was given a three-year sentence after pleading to multiple counts including manufacturing methamphetamine.

See page 2

## City board wants Heritage Park to be self-funded in future

Page 5



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

### Tigers smother Cats Friday...

This near-interception by Wildcat Falon Lee during Friday's opening season game against powerhouse Lake City was truly a high-flying effort that fell short, as did the Cats' quest to stay competitive with the highly-ranked 6-A Tigers. Baker High couldn't manage even a field goal against Lake City in its season opener, leaving the Columbia County field with a morale-deflating 50-0 drubbing. For the game story and Coach Ryan Sulkowski's comments on the opener, along with more photos, see page 13.



## BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

### Measure would require mining to get re-zoning

MIKE ANDERSON  
PRESS STAFF

Two weeks after sand mining proposals for hundreds of rural acres in Baker County were withdrawn to allow more time for regulatory agencies to study the plans, a county commissioner has hatched a plan to stop them permanently.

Commissioner Mark Hartley had planned to introduce an ordinance to prohibit sand mining in agricultural areas at the end of the commission meeting on the evening of September 4. But he decided at the last minute to postpone the matter, saying he needed more time to review the draft ordinance before moving forward with his idea.

"I want to read it over to make sure it's exactly what we want to do," he said after the meeting was adjourned shortly before 6 pm.

The county's present zoning code allows mining operations on lands with agricultural zoning designations by special exception. Mr. Hartley's proposal, if adopted at a later date, would restrict sand mining to industrial zones only.

The proposed ordinance states that continuing to permit sand mining on agricultural lands, which make up more than half of the county's total acreage excluding national forest land, is not in compliance

with the county's comprehensive, long-range planning mission.

The document further calls for "an absolute prohibition against sand mining on any property with an Agricultural (AG) zoning designation..." and concludes that such a policy would be "in the best interest of Baker County and its citizens."

The following language, under Amendment of the Baker County Land Development Regulations, contains the legislative intent:

"Sand mining on parcels of real property with Agricultural (AG)

zoning designations shall not be permitted nor shall special exceptions be granted for the purpose of conducting sand mining on parcels of real property with Agricultural zoning designations."

"The (Zoning) Board of Adjustment, the Local Planning Authority and the Planning Director shall not have the authority to consider or take action upon requests or applications for special exception applications made for the purpose of conducting sand mining on parcels of real property with Agricultural (AG) zoning designations."

During a crowded commission meeting held in a large courtroom at the county courthouse on August 20, Old Castle Southern Group and E.R. Jahna

See page 2

## Farm-ranch chain eyes former Food Lion

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com



The former Food Lion grocery store space in the Cornerstone Shopping Center in Macclenny may soon be occupied by the farm and ranch products retailer Tractor Supply Co.

The property owner, Yormaco-Cornerstone, LLC, has petitioned the City of Macclenny to rezone the property to accommodate the new store. Renovation plans were submitted previously.

The Macclenny City Commission will consider on September 11 rezoning about 8.6 acres at the northwest corner of Willis Hodges Road and South 6th Street from Commercial General to Planned Unit Development, or PUD.

PUD is a flexible zoning category in which many of the development restrictions — on things like setbacks, landscaping and signage — are negotiated between the city and the property owner, or this case, its agent Weaver Realty Group of Jacksonville.

Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough said PUD zoning is being sought because the outside storage areas that Tractor Supply Co. has planned for the site are not permitted in districts zoned Commercial General.

The company will not occupy all of the vacant space left when Food Lion closed its doors seven months ago after announcing the move in mid-January. The new store would use 25,118 square feet, or about 62 percent of the available space, the company's

plans show.

The plans, from Oxford Architecture in Nashville, TN, also call for a number of display areas to showcase Tractor Supply Co. products.

An outdoor area measuring about 15,000 square feet and cordoned off with a 2.5-foot masonry wall and ornamental fencing is proposed in the parking lot close to the highway alongside a smaller, 3000-square-foot

display area for trailers and equipment.

In addition, some 623 square feet on the sidewalk in front of the store will be set aside for displays.

The detached display areas are expected to reduce parking by 40-50 spaces.

Deliveries would be made to the rear of the store from Willis Hodges Road.

The plans also show at pylon sign next to the 3000-square-foot display area.

Tractor Supply Co. is a publicly traded company founded in 1938. Its website bills the company as "the largest retail farm and ranch store chain in the United States" with 1130 stores in 45 states and headquartered in Brentwood, TN

Other area locations include Orange Park, Jacksonville, Starke and Lake City.

Visit <http://www.tractorsupply.com> for more information about products and services.

With Food Lion's exit early this year, part of a wave of closures across the state and the Southeast, the shopping center lost its anchor store and other tenants lost the associated

See page 1

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS  
How should the county reduce the current \$1.6M budget deficit?

- 12% Employee furloughs
- 21% Reduce services
- 38% Use reserves
- 29% All of the above

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# Board caves on 10% cuts to sheriff, appraiser budgets

MIKE ANDERSON  
PRESS STAFF

During the Baker County Commission's second budget workshop in eight days, the board heard from Property Appraiser Tim Sweat and Sheriff Joey Dobson, the only two constitutional officers who did not meet the commission's request to trim their proposed budgets by 10 percent.

Both Mr. Sweat and Sheriff Dobson told commissioners on September 4 they could make no additional cuts in their budgets beyond the ones they had already made. Mr. Sweat cut his budget by 3.54 percent, dropping it from \$514,109 to \$495,902, and the sheriff pared his budget from \$3.5 million to \$3.2 million, nearly 8.5 percent.

Mr. Sweat said he had consistently cut budgets in previous years at the county's request, including a cumulative 9.85 percent reduction over the last three years, which he said is "the main reason I can't cut 10 percent this year."

"I feel like I've been doing what the board is currently asking everybody else to do," he said. "To illustrate the efficiency with

which the property appraiser's office operates, Mr. Sweat said, the operating expense for his department is \$13,000 less than the day he took office eight years ago.

Sheriff Dobson also said he had tried, but could not cut his budget any further, describing it as "bare bones." Any further cuts, he said, could only be achieved by cutting deputies, reducing patrols and increasing response times.

Commissioners also rejected the idea of trying to save money by putting employees on furlough, days off with no pay. One day of furlough would only save about \$10,400, which the board felt wasn't enough to help the county out of the economic jam it's in, and Chairman Gordon Crews said the maximum number of furlough days he would ever consider would be four per year.

To only save about \$41,000 would not be worth taking it out on employees, who haven't had a pay raise in three years, Commissioner Crews said.

County Manager C.J. Thompson cut nearly \$400,000 from his proposed \$24.6 million budget last week, which left a \$1.6 million deficit. He said the deficit remains the same this week and there appears to be no other way to increase revenue or cut costs to narrow the gap.

Commissioners said it looks like they'll have to go to the county's reserve fund once again to fill the deficit, following two deep plunges into the well over the past two years. Officials estimated last week the rainy day fund holds about \$7.8 million.

While that might not satisfy some people, Commissioner Crews said the county has made progress toward a more efficient county government, noting that there have been no fee increases, no tax increases and a steady decrease in costs over the past four years.

"That is progress," he said. "I think the board has done what it can do and we'll continue to move in that direction."

The first public hearing on the 2012-13 budget will begin at 6 pm on September 17.

# Molester gets life term

From page 1

The defendant was arrested in mid-December, 2011 driving what was described as a "mobile meth lab" through Glen St. Mary.

He had three small children in the vehicle with him, and the August 28 plea included charges of child neglect and child cruelty.

Mr. Mann was stopped by a county deputy who knew he was driving without a license, and while the officer was behind him he slid out of the driver's seat into the back while another male moved over behind the wheel, further endangering the children.

Also in the vehicle were potentially dangerous ingredients used to make meth.

Mr. Mann was a criminal past that includes forgery, grand theft, drug possession and traffic offenses.

Other sentencings: Charlie Lewis pleaded to domestic battery, child abuse and contributing to the delinquency of a minor and will be on probation 18 months after completing a 75-day jail sentence.

Judge Rosier revoked probation for Todd Winfred and ordered him to serve a six-month sentence and pay a \$250 fine for violating probation on 2008 drug charges.

Edward Stewart pleaded no contest to possession of controlled drugs and was given a four-month jail sentence.

Jay Blanchard admitted to violating probation on several drug charges from 2010 and 2011 and was sentenced to a year on house arrest, followed by two years on drug offender probation.

The judge ordered drug abuse evaluation and treatment, and that the defendant pay a \$250 fee for violating probation.

Matthew Pringle, who pleaded no contest to burglary and grand theft and drew a three-year term on drug offender probation, was ordered into treatment. The judge withheld adjudication of guilt pending successful completion of the sentence, and granted time served in county jail for trespass and criminal mischief.

The judge also withheld adjudication in the case of Nikki

Ross after her no contest plea to possession and sale of controlled drugs. She will be on drug offender probation a year after serving 11 months in county jail. The state dropped two companion charges and she will be assessed \$400 as cost of investigation.

Tracey Hartzog pleaded no contest to possession of controlled drugs and will be on probation 18 months.

The state dropped one count of improper exhibition of a dangerous weapon as Carlton Pender pleaded no contest to possession of a weapon on school property. He will be on probation two years and is banned from district property.

Nicklous Wiggins pleaded guilty to grand theft and two counts of battery and will be on probation two years. He was given credit for 119 days in county jail, and the judge ordered him to stand in front of Walmart with a sign for six hours identifying him as a thief.

James O. Williams Jr. pleaded no contest to a reduced count of battery and violation of a domestic violence injunction and will be on probation one year.

He was also ordered to enroll in a battery intervention class.



Melvin Mann

# Measure requires re-zoning for mining

From page 1

Inc. withdrew zoning exception applications to allow more time for review of their plans by state regulatory agencies and a consultant for the county. The withdrawal request came nearly an hour before the commission was scheduled to begin a public hearing on the mining proposals.

Some speculated that the companies made the move because they sensed that the outcome might not be to their liking. Public opposition to the mining plans has become increasingly hostile, with many calling for the county to scuttle the proposals immediately.

Commissioner Hartley had announced his opposition to the mining plans months ago and on September 3 he said he felt it was time to make his move.

"I thought this might be something we might want to look at more closely," he said, adding that sand mining would be detrimental to the environment and the public welfare, would compromise public safety by adding hundreds of dump trucks to narrow county roads every day and result in little economic benefit to the county.

"I just can't see that it would be good," he said.

By removing the special exception for mining companies in agricultural areas, the companies would have to seek a rezoning. Mr. Hartley said that's the way it should be because getting large tracts of land rezoned is not as easy as simply applying for a special zoning exception.

Ed Preston, the county's planning and zoning director, said removing the special exception provision for the mining companies could make their objective much more difficult.

"The Land Development Regulations allow mining to take place in the Industrial Zoning category," Mr. Preston said. "If they (Old Castle and Jahn Inc.) wanted to come back and do some sand mining they would have to rezone the property to industrial. It doesn't preclude them altogether from coming back."

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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

## Bowling alley, theater not market-feasible

JESSICA PREVATT | STAFF

I would love to see a movie theater or bowling alley in Baker County as much as the next person. But I'm tired of hearing speculation that the reason we don't have either is because the county isn't trying to attract them or we don't sell beer on Sunday.

Even though I don't have a degree in business administration or economics, I know neither of those are valid reasons. As nice as those venues would be, we don't have the population to support them.

Bradford County has a comparable population and do you know why they have a theater? Because someone opened one in downtown Starke in 1941, remodeled and updated it in 1984. It's only got two screens and is great for locals looking for a good family movie that's not a super new release.

If someone wanted to build something similar in Baker County, they are looking at an enormous investment. They'd have to purchase property, either build or remodel, and buy all the equipment necessary, just for starters. In this economy, it's just not feasible.

It would be great for my family and I, since we rarely make it to the movies anyway, but most young people are more interested in new releases and small theaters like that wouldn't have them when the big ones do. Plus, when you

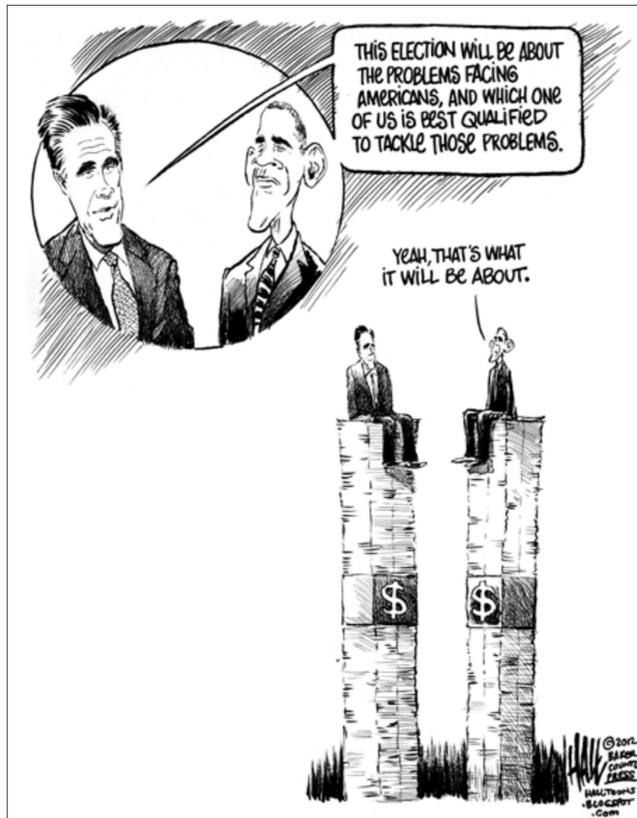
factor in having to compete with 1-Max and 3-D, costs will skyrocket.

A bowling alley has the same set of problems. A lot of initial investment that most banks aren't willing to loan.

As far as the restaurants ... I love Olive Garden. It's my all-time favorite place to eat. I also enjoy a meal at a good sushi restaurant or steak house. The fact we don't have those restaurants is more a matter of market size, not the fact we don't allow alcohol sales. How many have opened and closed their doors in Baker County in the last five years? People out here can't afford to eat out in sit-down restaurants frequently and they don't. And on occasions they do, Jacksonville and Lake City are short drives. The established restaurants are the only ones that do well and even they are struggling.

Maybe when I have grandchildren the economy will have bounced back from this horrid slump and Baker County will have a few chain restaurants, maybe a bowling alley. Don't blame the local politicians for socio-economic factors. Baker County is mostly a rural market and that's what I love about it. We will grow, slowly but surely, we just have to learn patience along the way.

Jessica Prevatt is a married mother of two boys and the advertising/production director at The Baker County Press.



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## It's time to inform on lawless among us

Dear Editor:

Since its opening on September 5, 2006, the members and volunteers of Faith Bible Church along with several other loving and kind contributors have made it possible to serve well over 10,000 meals to our local seniors.

Central Elementary Center in Sanderson has also been the place for our crime watch meetings sponsored by the sheriff's department, the Community Action Outreach meetings, Monday night exercise class and several health-related classes sponsored by our local health department.

In anticipation of our sixth anniversary, we closed down to do some repairs to the center's kitchen and dining room and to make some additions such as a new TV, computers, new doors and windows.

Some time Thursday, August 30 or the next day, someone broke out our brand new windows, entered the center, took a new 50-inch flat screen TV and walked out of our front door. Reportedly, no one saw anything.

The thieves did not leave any fingerprints but God knows who you are. He knows your lookout, your driver, and the people who cover and lie for you, the buyer and the ones who know but refuse to help. You are all equally guilty.

We don't believe these individuals represent the majority of our community, however there is a small group of individuals in our neighborhood who steal, possess and sell drugs and live as if they are not accountable to anyone. Their presence attracts others just like them.

All that evil needs to prosper is for good people to do nothing. When good people do nothing the wicked prosper.

We are asking for two things. First, if you have any information about who burglarized the center and stole our TV, please let us know. Second, alert your neighbors and the sheriff's office to any criminal activity going on around you.

Let's not make our community a comfortable place for criminals. Let's do something and take a stand for what is right. If you know a criminal, tell on them!

**Pastor Videll and Marva Williams Sanderson**

## How about Hooters for conventions site?

As you probably know, I have tossed my hat into the ring for the presidency. I realize that I might look the longshot, but I think I have a good chance. After watching the Republican National Convention last week, I feel that the door has been opened a crack wider and is only waiting for me to kick it in.

My "Vote Bob: It Could be Worse," signs, bumper stickers and buttons are at the printer and I am fueling up my Tacoma pickup - aka "The Bandwagon" and inviting the electorate to jump on board for the drive to the White House.

I watched the Republican Convention and I was not impressed. It did convince me of one thing though. I need to have my own political convention. I think I can have one that is a lot more fun and informative.

First of all I have to pick a good location. The Republicans picked Tampa, which is okay; I like Tampa pretty well. The Democrats chose Charlotte, an awful choice. There is nothing remotely fun about the Queen City of the South, or the entire state of North Carolina for that matter. Maybe that's a little harsh. I like Maggie Valley and Cherokee, but they're too small for a political convention.

Hmmm. So where do I want to have my convention? The city doesn't matter all

that much so long as the venue is good. So, I need a good venue.

Hooters of course. I'm bound to have a big turnout for my political convention. What drunken conventioneer doesn't love a Hooters?

Now I need speakers. Ann Romney did a pretty good job trying to make her husband seem like anything but the life-sized cardboard cutout that he is. She seemed a nice enough lady but my wife Kelley could have blown her off the podium. Now I just have to convince Kelley to endorse

me. That could be a challenge. The highlight of the convention was, of course, Clint Eastwood holding a 20-minute conversation with an empty chair. Lots of people were surprised and entertained by this speech, but not me. I realized right off that he was supposed to be having a conversation with an imaginary Barack Obama. Clever? Naw. I can walk down Bay Street in Jacksonville at any hour of the day or night and see old guys having conversations with empty benches. What's the big deal?

I'll get one of those guys off the street, put him in a suit and give him an open mic for 20 minutes and it's bound to be just as effective as Clint. So long as you don't pay attention to the part of the speech where

he claims that the Emperor Zod and his Martian armies are going to land and take over the world dressed as giant hamburgers.

Granted that might sound a little crazy, but then the Republicans let Congressman Rand Paul loose on the convention floor. He told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that another four years of Barack Obama and the country would come apart at the seams and be an unrecognizable Socialist state. Blitzer actually said, "Are you kidding me?" And he wasn't.

So whatever I say or any of my speakers say, we're going to sound reasonable next to Rand Paul and Paul Ryan. Or is that Rand Paul Ryan? They look alike. They sound alike. They may actually be the same person. Has anyone ever seen them together? Just saying.

Now I need a campaign platform. The economy is no good. That's already taken by the Republicans and Democrats. Not that they have any bright ideas about it. Nobody knows how to fix the economy. They claim they are going to create millions of new jobs, but unless they are going to start their own company, White House, Inc., and hire all the unemployed, I don't know how that's going to work. Of course, it worked for FDR.

I could talk foreign policy. Everybody seems to be ignoring that. The president doesn't talk about it unless pressed and Gov. Romney is certainly mum on the sub-

ject. Did you notice that throughout his acceptance speech, Gov. Romney never mentioned the A-word? The would-be commander in chief did not mention Afghanistan once. Not once did he mention the war that our country is currently involved in. All joking aside, I was a little scandalized by that.

I could describe my vision for the future. The America I envision. My hope for our future and my children's future. Nah. If you want to get elected nowadays they never talk about serious stuff like that. Instead you call your opponents names in a way that would get you put in detention if you were a middle schooler. Which is exactly what both parties remind me of - middle schoolers calling each other names.

Maybe I don't need a party platform when I've got the Hooters girls at my convention. They certainly beat funny hats and horns.

Send us letters  
and make sure  
they are SIGNED  
with a phone number.

## THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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

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The Baker County Press is published each Thursday by Baker County Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid under permit issued April 12, 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 ...'

Before this week's edition was published, we teased the front page story about the fate of the former Food Lion location in Macclenny by posting to Facebook, "Want to know what may be going into the old Food Lion building? Be sure to pick up a copy of tomorrow's paper to find out!" Here's a look at some of the comments that followed:

**Diana McMahan Haire:** "Hopefully something recreational."

**Jennifer Fraser Sapp:** "Harvey's would be nice!?"

**Tina Marie Hauge:** "If they made a golden corral, it would be fine by me :D"

**Barry Melton:** "We need a disco ... Or a bowling alley with a disco inside."

**Sheila Teston Lauramore:** "A Texas

**Road House would be nice. Or maybe a theater or something for children or teenagers.**

**Jay Cannaday:** "PUBLIK!"

**Jamie Webb:** "PLEASE say Publik!"

**Regina Mike Cody:** "We don't need another grocery store, we need entertainment."

**Steve Burger:** "Tractor supply?"

**Dale McDonald:** "We need something there for the kids to do."

**Clayton Yarbrough:** "Bass Pro Shop sounds like a good choice, I think! Bet there are lots of folks who would agree with that one!"

**Superintendent: reduction in teacher aides hours is optional**

An article in last week's Press reported, in error, that the school board approved on August 20 a 2.5-hour reduction in the hours for new teacher aides hired this year forward.

Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson explained this week that the board did not approve a reduction in hours for all new aides.

Rather, she said, a special education teacher with an existing aide needed an additional aide to work 5 hours per day.

And instead of hiring another aide to work a 7.5-hour day or a 4-hour day, the existing salary schedule options before the change, the school district created a new teacher aide salary schedule for aides to work 5 hours a day, the superintendent said.

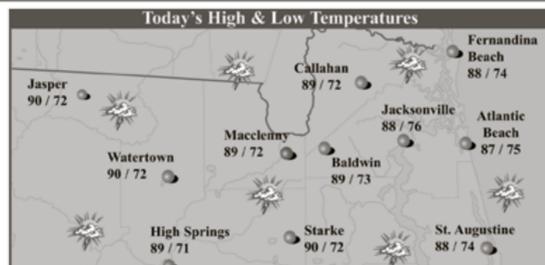
Ms. Raulerson further explained that new teacher aides may be put on the reduced salary schedule in the future, but it will be done on a case-by-case basis when needed.

She stood by her previous statement that the move would save the district money.

The superintendent was unsure, however, how many new aides were hired at the reduced salary schedule.

The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast table with columns for day, weather, high, and low.



Last Week's Local Almanac table with columns for day, high, low, normals, and precipitation.

Sept. 6, 2012

Sun/Moon Chart This Week table with columns for day, sunrise, and sunset.

St. Mary's River Levels and Hunting/Fishing Times tables.

Weather History table for Sept. 6, 1987, and a link to www.WhatsOurWeather.com.

COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION advertisement with address and services.

Switching accounts should be easy! Let us show you how! At Country Federal Credit Union...



BCHD rolls out expanded dental clinic

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR... The Baker County Health Department is now home to a larger remodeled dental clinic...



Dr. John Craig (center) and dental staff (pictured from left) Jana Thrower, Tami Richardson, Stacy Rhoden and Teri Collins.

ment's figures, the dental clinic logged 11,964 visits from 5278 patients, who on average are seen 2.5 times each year in 2011. The program provided nearly 37,000 services that year as well.

added more parking spaces and parking lot lighting, a new electronic sign out front and a larger retention pond. The murals — including frogs, alligators and other swamp critters — were painted by clinic hygienist Whitney Taylor.

Thanks so much

Thanks to the City of Macclenny for use of the parking lot on August 31 for the Mark Willis benefit. Thanks also to Kim Brown and Verna Crews for running it smoothly...

Online - COMMUNITY CALENDAR advertisement with contact information.

We need your GOLD! Trust Your Family Heirlooms to People You Know! TOP \$\$\$ PAID for unwanted or broken gold.

RENEWAL CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH with Evangelist Dave Jones September 9-12. Sunday service 11:00 am & 6:00 pm. Monday - Wednesday 7:00 pm. Nursery provided. Pastor Donnie E. Williams. 523 NORTH BOULEVARD - MACCLENNY

Wants Heritage Park more self-supporting Okays higher budget

MIKE ANDERSON PRESS STAFF

The future of Heritage Park and Macclenny's garbage pickup service are two major issues in the municipal government's proposed \$4.4 million operating budget for 2012-13.

Because the spending plan contains a substantial funding increase for Heritage Park — from \$42,738 to \$74,087 — city commissioners say they want the park to become more self-supporting through fees for activities and events, such as reunions, receptions and group tours.

Commissioner Vernon Bennett said the facility, a village theme park that reflects the history of Baker County in 22 separate museum buildings, is an attractive asset for the city. But he questioned the 73 percent increase in operating expenses during the board's second budget workshop on the evening of August 28.

"It's costing us too much money," he said. "I know it's a nice place and I love it, but I don't know how much it's used. We can't keep increasing it (expense) every year."

Even fees can be generated at the park to offset the operating costs to the taxpayer, Mr. Bennett suggested the city might have to stop funding it.

"People don't use it that much to pay that much money for it," he said. "We're going to have to get some income there or quit."

The park, the brainchild of Baker County native LaViece Smallwood Moser, who remains an unpaid executive director, was created 12 years ago on 3.5 acres off Lowder Street. The land is overseen by the Baker County Development Commission and leased to the city for \$1 a year.

City Manager Gerald Dopson said the main reason for the budget increase was his decision to turn a part-time park director position into a full-time job for Kelly Lannigan, who was hired this year to run the facility and attract visitors.

Mayor Gary Dopson supported his brother's decision and said the park needs a full-time manager to "promote it and try to book three or four events a year there." However, he said a fee schedule will have to be developed to help generate additional revenue for the park.

Roger Yarborough, assistant city manager, said Ms. Lannigan has already created an impressive web site to help spread the word about Heritage Park and attract some interest.

Commissioner Phil Rhoden said time will tell whether the city can continue its relationship with the park. But he remained optimistic and suggested more volunteers be rounded up to help extend the park's hours in the evening and weekends.

"I don't think we're at the point yet to pull the plug," Mr. Rhoden said. "But I want to see how much fees can be generated in the next year to offset costs."

Changes also are in the future for the city's sanitation department. Bids will be received on September 7 from contractors seeking to take over the city's garbage pickup service and commissioners likely will vote on the issue at the next board meeting at 6 pm on September 11.

The proposed \$4,414,605 budget contains \$473,559 more spending than last year's budget, a 12 percent increase, mainly due to a \$300,000 allocation for a new garbage truck equipped with a mechanical arm that picks up curb side containers without the need for a second employee on the truck. The appropriation also includes money to buy garbage containers for customers.

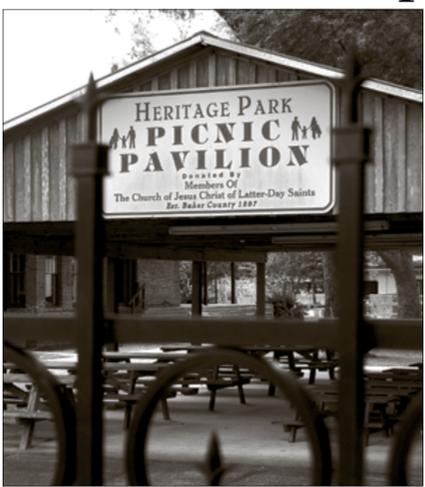
If the city goes forward with its plan to hire a private contractor with the same type of equipment, the \$300,000 could be used for other public works projects, the city manager said.

If a contract is awarded, officials said there would not be a rate increase for residents but the pickup schedule probably would be reduced from twice a week to once because the new containers will be much larger than the maximum 30-gallon size cans allowed now.

Even with larger containers that roll easily on wheels, City Manager Dopson said going to once-weekly collections is "probably going to be the biggest concern of residents."

One of the most significant benefits to using a truck equipped with a robotic arm to lift the garbage cans will be the elimination of back injury risks and subsequent workers compensation claims.

"There's not going to be any manual lifting," the city manager said. The new budget is based on keeping the property tax rate the



City wants more special events and other revenues at the above westside park.

same as last year — \$3.60 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A final vote is expected later this month and the new budget will become effective on October 1.

In other business during the August 28 meeting, commissioners awarded six bids totaling \$237,385 to contractors for the rehabilitation of three substantial houses and total reconstruction of three others under the city's federally funded Community Development Block Grant program designed to improve low-income housing.

Spencer Nabors, the city's housing rehabilitation consultant, said 18 contractors originally were approved to bid on the projects but only four bid on the homes targeted for rehabilitation and eight bid on those scheduled for demolition and reconstruction.

"I was very shocked," he said. "I figured we'd have more participation."

Registration begins at 8:45 am and testing at 9 am through 1 pm. A fee of \$20 and a valid picture ID are required at registration (exact amount please).

Call Becky Satterwhite with questions at 259-0403.

Advertising Deadline Monday 5:00 pm NO EXCEPTIONS!

Basic skills test

The adult basic skills test will be given on September 7 at the school district's Career and Adult Education Center on West Minnesota.

Registration begins at 8:45 am and testing at 9 am through 1 pm. A fee of \$20 and a valid picture ID are required at registration (exact amount please).

Call Becky Satterwhite with questions at 259-0403.

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Recovering from snake bite

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR... recovering from the snake bite at a Taylor-area hunting camp the evening of August 25.

Gavan Foster returned home from the intensive care unit at Shands Jacksonville three days later, said his father Robert Foster.

He said his son returned to school later in the week but was in too much pain to stay the full day.

The youth, a student at Keller Intermediate School, was bitten by a water moccasin, also known as a cottonmouth, on the bottom of his ankle.

The snake was later killed. Adult water moccasins are a dark brown-colored, heavy-bodied species that can grow up to 4 feet in length. Younger moccasins are lighter in color.

They are among the six venomous snake species native to Florida. The state is home to 44 snake species in all, however.

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# Arrests after vehicle chase Following lounge disturbance

Police arrested two out-of-county men on multiple charges early on September 1 for their alleged roles in a car chase north from Macclenny during which vehicles were damaged.

Joshua Wilkerson, 25, of Macclenny made telephone contact with a sheriff's dispatcher about 1:40 am when he said he was being pursued north on SR 121 by a Dodge Neon driven by Deron Thomas, 32, of St. George, GA.

Mr. Wilkerson maintained contact with police as the Dodge tailed his 2000 Chevrolet pickup north on 121 to Steel Bridge Rd., then east to Sawtooth Rd., where Mr. Wilkerson said he attempted to turn around to avoid going further east to his residence.

There, he said, Mr. Thomas positioned the Dodge to block his exit back onto Steel Bridge, and Donald Boston Jr., 38, of Lawley exited and was struck by a front fender and mirror as the pickup drove forward and hit the Dodge that was backing up into its path.

Mr. Wilkerson was still on the phone with county jail as both vehicles sped west on Steel Bridge back toward 121, and said the Dodge once rear-ended his truck before he turned back south where he met Deputy Matt Yarbrough near Paul Thrift Dr.

Mr. Wilkerson said the chase began after a confrontation at the Country Club Lounge, after he claimed Mr. Boston was attempting to get him into a fight over a past relationship with Mr. Boston's wife Melissa, 35, also of Lawley. She was a passenger in the Dodge during the chase, said Deputy Yarbrough, but was not charged.

Deputy Ben Anderson made contact with the Dodge's occupants at the Exxon Station near the lounge shortly after, and Mr. Thomas gave a conflicting version of events but could not explain why he drove out to Steel Bridge that morning, or how the collision occurred.

He was charged with aggravated assault, leaving the scene of an accident, criminal mischief, having an expired tag and reckless driving resulting in property damage.

Mr. Boston, who was treated at Fraser Hospital for injuries when struck by the pickup, was arrested for criminal mischief and violation of probation.

Court records show Mr. Boston is on probation for grand theft, exploiting the elderly and contracting without a license.

Deputy Yarbrough noted that a bouncer at the Country Club Lounge confirmed Mr. Wilkerson's version of events, affirming that Mr. Boston was repeatedly harassing him earlier that evening.

In other arrests, Jonathan Hale, 32, of Macclenny faces multiple charges following a confrontation with several deputies outside Fraser Hospital's emergency room early on August 31.

Deputy Chad Montean said he was on patrol about 1:40 when he saw Mr. Hale exit the hospital and strike an exterior wall with his fist. The suspect, accompanied by his wife Heather, 28, said he had been refused pain medication by a physician and that he was suicidal and owned a handgun.

Hospital personnel then confirmed that Mr. Hale damaged a wall inside the ER by shoving a gurney into it, threw a laundry hamper and beat on the door before exiting.

The suspect was charged with felony battery for striking Deputy Koty Crews in the mouth and on the ear when the officer attempted to pull him from a vehicle. Three officers were required to bring Mr. Hale to the ground and subdue him.

He was also booked for resisting arrest with violence and criminal mischief.

Timothy Grantham, 47, of Glen St. Mary was arrested the afternoon of September 2 for resisting Deputy Daryl Mobley after first giving him permission to search a basket on his bicycle.

The officer said Mr. Grantham and William Curran, 48, also of Glen, were both on bicycles when they were observed trespassing on private property on CR 23C about 5:30 pm. Deputy Mobley said both men smelled strongly of alcohol.

Heather Swan returned to her residence on North Boulevard in Macclenny the evening of August 28 to find the front door had been kicked open. Nothing inside was reported missing, but she gave Deputy Matt Yarbrough the name of a Macclenny man as a suspect.

The suspect, in fact, telephoned Ms. Swan while the deputy was there, and in a later interview denied knowledge of the damaged door and frame. The victim told Deputy Yarbrough the man had become enamored with her in her position as a bartender at a Jacksonville "gentlemen's club."

Several persons were confronted in an empty residence belonging to Aubrie Hires on North Lowder in Macclenny in the early morning hours of September 1.

Witnesses told Deputy Daryl Mobley the intruders fled when confronted, and the owner reported no property missing.

Mr. Kiser said he got permission to search the neighboring residence of a potential suspect. It turned up nothing. Sometime between 9 pm on August 27 and noon the next day, a rental mobile home on Tony Givens Rd. occupied by Leeardria Farmer and Brandon Coleman was entered through a rear door.

The interior was ransacked, said Deputy Pete Quinley, and the couple tallied the property loss at \$1209, including a television, window air conditioner, DVD, radio and speakers and a safe.

Rex Simpkins called police when he realized on August 31 that a central air conditioner compressor was stolen from his rental house on CR 23B north of Macclenny.

The owner told Deputy Clements Leo he last saw the unit operating a year ago, and valued it at \$3000. He noted that the fan cover on the unit had been replaced intact.

In other incidents, Brandon Wilkerson, 35, of Glen was arrested the morning of September 3 for driving on a license with six prior suspensions.

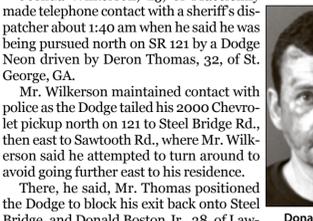
Deputy Shawn Bishara said he followed the suspect driving a pickup towing a trailer loaded with hay bales. The trailer had no tag or brake lights.

He stopped the vehicle near Richardson Rd. and learned of the suspensions. He also ticketed Mr. Wilkerson for speeding on a 45 mph stretch of Mud Lake Rd.

Jack Jarvis, 47, of Macclenny was arrested the evening of September 1 for driving with three license suspensions, two of them linked to drunk driving.

Deputy Matt Yarbrough said he observed the suspect in a southbound 1998 Toyota swerve across the center line on CR 23A about 7 pm. He also ticketed Mr. Jarvis for failure to maintain a single lane.

She was charged with resisting arrest without violence.



Donald Boston

# Charged after 2nd complaint

A Macclenny man who earlier was named for causing a disturbance at Mac's Liquors downtown early on September 1 was arrested when a county deputy responded to the same complaint a half hour later.

Roy Prevatt, 39, had left the premises when Deputy Matt Yarbrough answered the first complaint about 12:50 am, but was there arguing with manager William Cooler in the drive-thru area when he responded a second time around 1:15.

Mr. Prevatt was charged with disorderly intoxication after he told both the manager and deputy they had no authority to remove him from the property. Earlier, Mr. Cooler said the suspect was harassing customers and refused to leave.

In another incident about the same time, a Macclenny man was arrested in the west city for possession of alcohol underage.

Deputy Daryl Mobley said he stopped a 2006 Chevrolet pickup for lack of a tail light as it headed west on US 90 about 12:40 am. Driver Dustin Donnelly, 20, had an opened beer and six unopened ones in the vehicle.

The officer noted he warned Mr. Donnelly twice last October for the same offense after stopping his vehicle.

# State footing bill for 2 new bridges

JOEL ADDINGTON | NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Three months from now, work should be underway by the Florida Department of Transportation to reopen two critical bridges damaged by Tropical Storm Debby.

County Manager C.J. Thompson said this week the department is funding both projects saving the county more than a million dollars.

"Both bridges are going to be replaced and the county does not have to come up with an estimated \$1.2 million in local match," he said. The Cedar Creek Bridge on CR 127 N., which lost a roughly 100-foot section during the tropical storm in late June, will be replaced.

Construction is expected to start within 90 days. The state is soliciting bids for the project from three pre-qualified contractors.

A similar project is planned for the Greens Creek Bridge on CR 229 S., which suffered major erosion around wood pilings that support the structure.

It's anticipated the state will erect a temporary bridge over Greens Creek within the next 90 days with construction on a permanent replacement bridge will follow shortly thereafter.

FDOT is advertising for bids to complete both tasks, also from a trio of companies.

"No temporary bridge is being placed [on CR 127 N.] due to right of way issues," Mr. Thompson said. "Acquiring the additional right of way would cause substantial delays in the overall project."

A third bridge — the Reynolds Road Bridge on CR 120 to Georgia — also sustained damage during Debby. An update on the state line bridge was not available as of press time.

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# Bike-riding drug runner

Police arrested a convicted felon early on September 2 on suspicion of being a bicycle-riding drug runner in downtown Macclenny.

Deputy Matt Yarbrough said he observed Mr. Battles ride to the lounge and briefly converse with patrons outside, then ride south to MLK and return to the bar. No one at the bar was arrested.

In other drug-related cases, Bobby Gaskins Jr., 19, of Sanderson was arrested the afternoon of August 30 for felony possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

Investigator Chris Volz said he and Investigator David Morgan were patrolling on CR 229 in north Sanderson about 1:45 pm when they confronted Mr. Gaskins because he matched the description of a runaway juvenile they were looking for.

Mr. Battles, 22, made three round trips to Mac's Liquors from MLK Dr. in about 20 minutes before midnight, and stopped him near Rock Ct. for not having night illumination on the bicycle.

During a routine search, the officer found an inoperable cell phone in one of the suspect's pockets, and cocaine residue in an empty battery compartment. Deputy Yarbrough's report notes that "decoy" phones are often used to conceal drugs in that manner.



Lee Battles

The suspect walked away from them initially, then refused to give his name. The investigator noted a large bulge in one of Mr. Gaskins' pockets, and retrieved six small baggies of pot and one large one.

The suspect was identified by his father, who drove to the scene. A 17-year-old Baker High student was charged with misdemeanor possession on the campus the afternoon of August 30 after assistant principal John Staples found a baggie stashed in his wallet.

Mr. Staples told campus deputy Matt Riegel he received a tip that the student from the Macclenny area had marijuana. He also found a bag of what was termed "fake" marijuana in one of the student's pants pockets.

# Fight over children ruckus

An argument at a north Sanderson residence over noisy children the morning of August 28 led to the arrest of a brother for battery on his sister, and a criminal complaint against the sister for threatening him with a knife.

Jerry Davis Jr., 30, was found to be the primary cause of the disturbance at the address on Bertie Davis Rd. about 9:45, said Deputy Michael Clark. The suspect's father corroborated allegations by Sarah Parish, 27, that her brother became angry at commotion by her children and choked and struck her during an argument.

Ms. Parish had abrasions about the neck, said the officer, and the elder Mr. Davis confirmed he had to pull his son off her.

The brother and sister told conflicting versions on use of the knife. Ms. Parish said Mr. Davis lunged at her with it, and the brother insisted she barged through his bedroom door with the knife and poked him in the chest.

Ms. Parish was named in a complaint for aggravated battery and domestic violence. Mr. Davis was taken to jail and booked for domestic battery.

In other incidents during and before the Labor Day holiday: Marvin Davis, 26, was arrested for domestic battery on live-in girlfriend Beki Delp, 19, at their residence on Frank Combs Rd. in the north county.

Deputy Chad Montean said he responded to the address the evening of August 29 and was told by Ms. Delp that she returned to find the boyfriend drunk while babysitting several children, including one they have together.

Mr. Davis twisted her fingers and struck her during an ensuing argument, alleged the girlfriend. A boyfriend with a history of domestic violence was named as the person who attacked Amy Masters, 24, at a residence on Yellow Pine Rd. northwest of Macclenny the evening of August 31.

Ms. Masters called police during the incident, then refused to name Michael Jackson, 30, as

her assailant. Deputy Matt Yarbrough said he observed redness around Ms. Masters' neck and face area, along with dried blood on her chin. The boyfriend was off the premises when the officer arrived about 6:20 pm.

An ex-husband was named in a complaint for violating a protective order by sending a letter to his ex-wife at a north Sanderson residence on August 31.

Samantha Mann, 28, told Deputy Robert Aberly the letter citing her for contempt over disposition of a jointly-owned vehicle displayed the name of Eric Godwin, 33, from whom she has been divorced three years.

The order bars him for having any contact with her. Two parties were named in complaints for battery following an argument that erupted when a Glen St. Mary man and his girlfriend went to an ex-girlfriend's residence north of Sanderson to pick up a child.

Adam Hunter, 23, told Deputy Brandon Kiser that Jennifer Williams, 26, became angry when he showed up at her address on Sanderson Circle to pick up their 1-year-old child the afternoon of August 29.

She allegedly struck Ricki Burling, 18, of Glen while she and Mr. Hunter were driving off, and damaged both a door and a tail light. Ms. Williams accused the ex-boyfriend of running over her foot as he sped away.

The deputy filed an additional complaint against Ms. Williams for criminal mischief. A female patient at North-east Florida State Hospital was named August 28 in a complaint for battery on employee Amy Hasty, 43, of Macclenny four days earlier.

Ms. Hasty told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite the patient entered her office that morning, then struck and choked her.



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TOWN OF BALDWIN  
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Baldwin is applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for a grant under the Neighborhood Revitalization Category in the amount of \$650,000 in the FFY2012 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. For each activity that is proposed, at least 51% of the funds must benefit low and moderate-income persons. The activities, dollar amounts and estimated percentages benefit to low and moderate-income persons for which the Town is applying are:

Activity No.	Activity Name	CDBG Funds	Estimated LMI Benefit
21A	Administration	\$52,000.00	N/A
21B	Engineering	\$36,400.00	N/A
03J	Water Line Replacement	\$476,600.00	Over 51%
03J	Water Tank/Well Treatment Plant	\$85,000.00	Over 51%

The Town of Baldwin's application will request funding to provide upgrades to the Town's looped water distribution system and the Town's existing Water Treatment Plant. Potential upgrades to the existing looped water distribution system may include: the placement of emergency shut-off valves throughout the system to ensure the overall system remains in operation when a localized problem occurs; and localized waterline replacement to include upgraded hydrants at various points throughout the Town.

Additionally, upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant will include a new telemetry system and associated components.

The Town of Baldwin plans to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned CDBG funded activities in the following manner: No displacement is anticipated.

If any persons are displaced as a result of these planned activities, the Town will assist such persons in the following manner: In accordance with the Town's Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held at the Town Hall, 10 US Highway 90, Baldwin, FL 32234 on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. A draft copy of the application will be available for review at that time. A final copy of the application will be made available at Town Hall, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., no more than five days before the application due date. The application will be submitted to DEO on or before October 1, 2012. For information concerning the public hearing, contact Lala Hill, Town Clerk, at (904) 266-5030. The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Lala Hill at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. Any non-English speaking persons wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Lala Hill at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf Persons (TDD) please call (800) 955-8771. Any handicapped person requiring special accommodation at this meeting should contact Lala Hill at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

Pursuant to Section 102 of the HUD Reform Act of 1989, the following disclosures will be submitted to DEO with the application. The disclosure will be made available by the Town of Baldwin and DEO for public inspection upon request. The disclosures will be available on and after the date of submission of the application and shall continue to be available for a minimum of five years.

- Other Government (federal, state and local) assistance to the project in the form of a gift, grant, loan, guarantee, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, credit, tax benefit, or any other form of direct or indirect benefit by source and amount;
- The identities and pecuniary interests of all developers, contractors, or consultants involved in the application for assistance or in the planning or development of the project or activity;
- The identities and pecuniary interests of any other persons with a pecuniary interest in the project that can reasonably be expected to exceed \$50,000 or 10% of the grant request (whichever is lower);
- For those developers, contractors, consultants, property owners, or others listed in two (2) or three (3) above which are corporations, or other entities, the identification and pecuniary interests by corporation or entity of each officer, director, principal stockholder, or other official of the entity;
- The expected sources of all funds to be provided to the project by each of the providers of those funds and the amount provided; and
- The expected uses of all funds by activity and amount.

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# TV stolen from church center

A smashed window was the entry point at a north Sanderson church outreach center where a recently purchased television was stolen from a wall. The TV was valued at \$800.

Phillip Jefferson reported the burglary at the Central Center on CR 229 on September 1, and told Deputy Matt Yarbrough the building was secure when he last checked it the afternoon of August 29.

A wrench found inside the building was likely used to break the window on the building's southeast side.

About the same time and in the same neighborhood, someone kicked in doors to a trailer and shed at Daisy's Bar-B-Que. Owner Thelma Joseph told Deputy Earl Lord the burglary occurred overnight on August 31.

No property was reported missing. In other thefts, a criminal complaint was filed August 31 against former Walmart cashier Jessica Davis, 22, of Sanderson for pocketing cash from a register during a month-long period.

A store security worker told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite that Ms. Davis was observed on security camera taking about \$100 at intervals. She admitted the thefts

in a subsequent interview with the officer. A 63-year-old Macclenny woman reported on August 28

that six bogus charges turned up on her credit card account, totaling \$465.

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**Public Notice**

Nita D. Crawford, Supervisor of Elections, will be registering new voters and accepting voter registration changes at **Winn-Dixie** Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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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](http://www.bakercountypress.com)



Phillip Harvey Briner

## Brother arrives

Randall and Laura Beth Briner of Macclenny are proud to announce the birth of their son, Phillip Harvey Briner. Phillip joins his brother Will, and was born August 14 at Baptist Medical Center Downtown. He weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Anna Briner of Macclenny, William Briner of Glen St. Mary, Buddy and Sally Harvey of Taylor. Great grandmothers are Irene Prevatt of Macclenny, Catherine Grant of Taylor and Frankie Tidwell of Valdosta, Ga.



Mr. and Mrs. Meeks

## 50th anniversary

Milton and Mable Meeks and family celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary at their home in Macclenny on Sunday, September 2.

Both are natives of Valdosta, GA, where they were joined in matrimony. They celebrated with daughters Carol Baker of Macclenny and Kay Hall of St. Augustine, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Crews-Batten reunion

The Crews and Batten family reunion will be held on September 8 starting at noon at the St. George (GA) Baptist Church.

Bring your old and new photos. For more details, call Johnny Batten at 904-782-3330 or 259-7351.

## We'll build it!

Construction and carpentry students at Baker County High School will build pump houses, tool sheds, storage buildings, picnic tables, dog houses, bookshelves and more at very reasonable prices.

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Happy Birthday, Mazie & Daisy  
September 6  
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# 'Campaign' is a typical Will Ferrell flick

**BOB GERARD**

Right off the bat let's get this out of the way. Though the previews for *The Campaign* look hilarious, don't be tempted to take the kids to see the new Will Ferrell, Zack Galifianakis film. It is rated R for good reason.

Beyond that disclaimer it has some good things going for it, and some not so good. The easiest way to describe *The Campaign* is to say it is a Will Ferrell movie.

If you are a fan of Mr. Ferrell's movies or if you avoid them like the plague you'll know exactly what I mean when I say that. His films like *Anchorman*, *Talladega Nights* and *Old School* are funny, sometimes very funny, and out of control.

In a Will Ferrell movie, it's as if a bunch of fraternity brothers got together and said, "Let's make a movie." They put in every ridiculous gag they can think of without anyone to say, "Guys, this isn't really very funny. Let's trim this one out." So what you get is excess instead of hilarious from start to finish.

That is my knock on *The Campaign*. There is a lot that should have landed on the cutting room floor.

*The Campaign* is a parody of a North Carolina congressional campaign and sadly to say, there is a lot that strikes home. Ferrell plays long term congressman,

Cam Brady who is up for reelection. He is rarely ever challenged because he is a lock to get reelected.

Early on it is clear that he doesn't do much in Congress. He hardly ever votes and has no coherent stance on any issue. He tells his aides that his campaign is about Jesus, Freedom and America and when asked a tough question he injects any or all of the above without ever answering the question.

The opposition decides to run Marty Huggins, a small town tour guide whose father (Rip Torn) was a big political wheeler-dealer. Galifianakis' Huggins is slightly effeminate, has a pudgy wife and two pudgy children and is a nice man. He is shocked that he has been asked to run for anything and is terrified of his campaign manager Tim Wattlely (Dylan McDermott). McDermott comes across like a ninja and steals every scene he is in. Wattlely reshapes Huggins life and even replaces his dogs, a pair of Pugs with Labs because they test better with the public.

Once Huggins accepts his party's nomination he has sold his soul to the devil. Brady and Huggins trade barbs and dig up all the dirt they can find. Brady profiles Huggins at a meet and greet and shows pictures of him working out at Curves. Huggins challenges Brady to say the Lord's Prayer to prove his faith. What

follows is a ridiculous rehash of the "sweet baby Jesus" sequence from *Talladega Nights*.

After each candidate has fired a shot across the other's bow, the mud-slinging begins full tilt. There is no holding back and though funny, a firmer hand on the throttle would have been more useful to the movie.

Director Jay Roach was a disappointment. He directed two outstanding political films, *Game Change*, a scathing portrait of Sarah Palin starring Julianne Moore and *Recount*, a fabulous look at the 2000 election fiasco in Florida with Kevin Spacey. In *The Campaign* it looks as if he was afraid to say no to Ferrell.

Ferrell is Ferrell, that's all that can be said. His character is a rehash of every other character he's ever played. Galifianakis is a surprise and was the real star of this movie. The Hangover star was funny, sweet and unintimidated in scenes with Ferrell. He as a long career ahead of him.

There are some excellent supporting roles. John Lithgow and Dan Ackroyd do a funny "Trading Places" turn as the Mooch brothers — supernich politicians trying to turn Huggins into a winner.

Katherine LaNasa and Sarah

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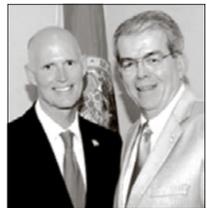
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## Named FHCA new secretary

John Simmons, administrator of Macclenny Nursing and Rehab, posed in early August with Florida Governor Rick Scott shortly after he was sworn in as secretary to the executive board of the Florida Health Care Association during a meeting in Orlando. The organization represents more than 500 long term care facilities in the state and has over 1000 members. Mr. Simmons has been chief of the 120-bed facility for more than six years. He was previously vice-president of the organization's Region 4 that includes north Florida counties along the I-10 corridor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S PHOTOGRAPHY



## Ends 2 years as Gateway chair

Chuck Brannan of Macclenny (center) was presented a plaque commemorating the end of a two-year term as chairman of the Board of Trustees at Florida Gateway College (formerly LCCC) in Lake City. Mr. Brannan has been on the college board ten years and will continue as a member. He is pictured here with Tom Rihard of Union County, the incoming chair, and Dr. Charles Hall, college president. During his term as chairman, the college converted to a four-year school, changed its name and underwent major new and refurbishing construction on the campus in east Lake City adjacent to the airport. Mr. Brannan is a major with the Baker County Sheriff's Office and recently was transferred from his longtime position as chief of investigations to courthouse security.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA GATEWAY

# This is why I prefer to come home to Baker...



Kendra Kennedy, Rehab staff; Bobby Thomas & Andy Babcock, Rehab staff

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# Coach: Tiger's speed surprising

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

The Wildcats took it on the chin on Friday night in Lake City, losing 50-0 to a very talented Columbia High Tigers. Coach Ryan Sulkowski and his staff have an open date before Duval Charter comes in on September 14. Here's how Sulkowski looked at Friday's game.

*What surprised you the most about Friday's game? The speed of Columbia. We knew they were strong and physical, but they covered a lot of ground quickly.*

*After the CHS game are you thankful or regretting that there is an open date before Duval Charter? I truly believe the open date is a positive thing for us right now. We needed to step away from football for a few days and refocus our energy. It also will give us a chance to continue to evaluate a few positions that are still unsettled without the rushed feeling of having to play on Friday night. Healing some of the bumps and bruises is also a priority this week, so I am glad we have some time to do that!*

*In the early going the Wildcats were moving the ball well and seemed to be holding even in the run of play. What changed that allowed CHS to take over the game? With a young, inexperienced team you cannot give a very good and veteran football team like Columbia an inch, because they will take a mile. We came into the game wanting to control the clock and slow play down with our running game. A few times we got behind the chains with penalties and that really just forced us out of our game plan.*

*We knew we had to keep it close in order to continue on track with our offensive game plan and that just didn't happen. Typically there is no mystery to what a team is doing on 3rd down and 15 (passing), but without penalties you are looking at 3rd down and 5 and it keeps the defense guessing on whether you are going to run or pass. When we got in long yardage situations like the example I just provided, it makes it tougher on the offense because the defense just gets to "tee-off" on you.*

*Defensively we came in wanting to force them to throw the ball since they are a power running team. Hats off to them because they were able to make*

plays in the passing game, but I felt we defended the run pretty well with the exception of a few missed tackles.

*When you suffer that lopsided a score, what is the biggest challenge going into the next game? The biggest challenge is not hitting the "panic button." The fact is we played a top 5 state-ranked team in a higher classification with a very young group of players. The initial thought going through the mind of our coaching staff was, "Oh, we have so much to fix," but that simply is not true. We lost to a very good football team and we will continue to stay the course. The kids understand that and know we have to improve every week regardless. In my mind we will not face a more well-rounded team this season.*

*Are there any positives that you can take away from Friday night's game? Of course, I think that unless you are just a negative person by nature, you can always find positives. I saw some fight in our young boys. I saw them understand the impact of graduating 17 seniors on a 5A program such as us. There were times on Friday night that defensively we had no seniors on the field and offensively we had two. A lot of the younger guys could have packed it in, but they didn't. They continued to fight against Columbia's starters even when the game was out of reach.*

*This is going to be a mentally and physically tough group of guys as a result of playing ranked teams like Columbia. The thing about games like that is you find out the true character of your players, coaches, fans and community. I can honestly say that I have no concerns about the character of the people involved with this team because they showed me a lot on Friday. I cannot say the same about a few of our followers on Friday.*

*Who played up to or above potential on Friday? I was really encouraged by a guy like Falon Lee. He rarely comes off the field and even late in the game when he began cramping up, he was quick to get back in and battle more. We can go into battle on Friday nights with guys like him. We had other guys who did very well, but Falon just sticks out in my mind for his toughness the other night.*



Corey Lawler (right) attempts to avoid the sack.

# Blown away! Cats declawed in 50-0 rout by Tigers

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

When you watch a game like Friday's match-up between the Wildcats and 6A power Columbia High it's easy to wonder "what if?" What if the Cats had scored on their opening drive? What if some of the dropped passes had been caught? What if they could have stopped Tiger quarterback Jayce Barber from completing his passes? Would the outcome have been different?

Questions like that are a fool's errand, because they didn't happen. What did happen was the Tigers completely dominated the Wildcats on the way to a 50-0 victory and one of the worst defeats in the history of Wildcat football.

The Wildcats will likely bounce back from the first loss this season that counted, and a comprehensive defeat may entice players to come back and go it at harder. That's what Coach Ryan Sulkowski and his staff and team expect, and what followers of Wildcat football expect.

As a player, Friday's game was one to put in a back pocket and remember when adversity strikes in other games. You pull it out and remember the feeling of walking off the field at the end of the game shell-shocked. You tell yourself this is not going to happen again. That's what good teams do.

And the Wildcats are a good team. There are positives to take from Friday's game, though not a lot of them. The Wildcats hit hard, they chased, they fought for yardage and kept their heads up. Those are qualities that will serve them the rest of the season.

The Cats started strong. Falon Lee took the opening kickoff and cut and slashed 28 yards to the 35. On three successive plays he drove into Tiger territory to the CHS 43.

But at that point the drive broke down. The Wildcats punted and pinned the Tigers at the 3-yard line.

But a Top 5 team doesn't stay pinned for long. The Tigers embarked on a 10-play, 97-yard drive for a touchdown and it defined the game.

The Wildcats knew they would be up against one of the best running games in the state. So they designed their game plan around stopping the run.

"If they were going to beat us, their quarterback was going to have to throw the ball and complete some passes," said Coach Ryan Sulkowski. And that's exactly what quarterback Jayce Barber did. The Wildcats did a pretty good job of controlling Braxton Stockton and Ronald Timmons over the course of the night, but that left single coverage on Ronnie Underwood, J.C. Bradley, Trey Marshall and Darren Burch.

Barber hit Underwood with a 17-yard pass completion on third down, found Barber on a 23-yard strike and connected with Burch in the end zone for the score. Just like that, BCHS was down by seven. The Wildcats weren't deterred, however, and came back with a couple of effective runs from senior quarterback Corey Lawler to the 30-yard line. Lawler hit Mike Boone at the 48 and it looked as if things might swing their way.

But two miscues, a holding call and a delay of game, stopped the drive cold. After a punt, Barber connected with Marshall on a 42-yard touchdown pass to give CHS a 14-0 lead.

Two plays later the Tigers had the ball again after Rakeem Battles intercepted Lawler. This time the Tigers stayed on the ground and marched 71 yards for the score.

The match-up of All Americans CeCe Jefferson and Laremy Tunsill was a good one. Jefferson played a whale of a game at fullback and blocked an extra point.

But it was overshadowed by the mounting score. CHS led 34-0 at the half. It would have been easy at that point for a team with lesser character to lie down, but that is not in the Wildcat DNA and they continued to play hard. In fact, though they didn't score, they played better in the second half than in the first.

The stats weren't pretty. The Wildcats had 100 yards in total offense to 424 for Columbia. Falon Lee finished with 32 yards rushing, most of which came on the first series. Lawler was 2 for 7 for 14 yards and an interception. Timmons led Columbia with 13 carries for 130 yards.

The Cats have an open date Friday and will host Duval Charter on September 14. Duval Charter lost 67-0 to Episcopal last week.

# Cats opponent results

While the Wildcats were getting spanked by Columbia High on Friday, some of their opponents had a more successful first outing. Here's a look at how the opposition did in season openers.

- Bolles traveled to Palm Bay to take on the Bayside Bears and had a challenging game. The Bulldogs were without starting quarterback Colby Peters and struggled offensively as a result. In the end, however they came away with a 21-14 win.

- The Forrest Rebels got their first win of the season, defeating the Oakleaf Knights 20-13 behind three touchdown passes from Jeff Vining, who finished 11 for 18 for 167 yards.

- Deandre Johnson threw for three scores as First Coast beat Terry Parker 34-12. The Braves

kept it close throughout the first half, trailing by only a point at the half. The Buccaneers then exploded for three scores in the third period to seal the game.

- Episcopal routed Duval Charter, the Wildcats' next opponent, 67-0.

- Bishop Kenny beat Middleburg 27-0 to remain the team to beat in the district. Ahmad Fullwood caught a touchdown, scored on a punt return and had 11 tackles on defense in the game. Moronkie Tapper caught eight passes from John Wolford, including a touchdown pass.

- Clay went up against a buzz saw in Fleming Island and lost 31-14.

- Palatka got off to a winning start with a 30-20 victory over the Bradford Tornadoes.

# Opening loss to Knights

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

The Lady Wildcat volleyball team got off to a rocky start last week as it lost 1-3 in the home opener to the Oakleaf Knights on August 28.

The Knights took the first game 22-25 before BCHS settled down and won the second 25-20. The third game was a back and forth affair with the Knights winning 26-24. They took the match winner 25-21. The match was close from start to finish, but in the end it was the host's serve that let them down.

"We had first match jitters," said Coach Heather Sulkowski. "We had a total of 21 service errors in a tight match. If we could just cut that down by half we would be okay."

Callie Wheeler led the offense with eight kills. Wheeler and Kayla Holland had nine defensive digs each. Candace Clack dominated the net with her height with five kills for a 400 hitting percentage and 9 total blocks.

The Cats traveled to Bishop Kenny for their first district match September 4. See next week's edition for a recap.



Candace Clack (right) blocks the spike.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM

# Bobcats go 1-1 versus Yulee on home court

The duo of Bobcats volleyball teams split their games against Yulee middle the evening of August 30 when the A-team fell in two close games, 22-25 and 23-25, while the B-team pulled out the win in three games 25-10, 14-25 and 15-12. The next home matches will be September 6 at 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Pictured above at the net is No. 11 Sydney Raulerson with No. 3 Emily Johnson.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

## Cancer survivor flooded with fabric for her Relay for Life quilt

Craft enthusiast and breast cancer survivor Christine Keffer, 42, of Maxville is patching together a quilt of fabric squares sent to her from around the nation and even a few foreign countries to support the American Cancer Society's 2013 Relay for Life benefit in Baker County. More than 300 squares, some with intricate and creative designs, began arriving in the mail, many from fellow survivors and their families and friends, after she announced her plan online to her Facebook quilting group. She hopes to finish the quilt by Christmas and raffle or auction it off to raise money for next spring's Relay for Life. The wife and mother of three said the American Cancer Society has been a great help to her during her treatment. She was diagnosed in late 2011 and her cancer is currently in remission. To see a video interview with Ms. Keffer, please visit the video section at [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com).

## Encore! recaps 30 years of drama

BCHS drama is presenting a one night only celebration of 30 years of entertaining Baker County. *Encore!* is a celebration through scenes and songs of the rich dramatic tradition at BCHS. It chronicles the over 100 shows presented during that time period.

It will be staged Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 pm in the newly refurbished BCHS auditorium. It has undergone a \$30,000 face lift, the culmination of two years of fun raising by the drama program. There are new curtains, a new sound system and full padded seating in both the reserved and general admission sections.

*Encore!* includes scenes from *Steel Magnolias*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and songs from Broadway in Baker and musicals like *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Annie*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Grease*.

In many cases, the original performers are returning to reprise their original roles. Reserved tickets are on sale for \$10 by calling 259-6286. General admission tickets are on sale for \$5 at the door while they last.

## Mentors needed for area students

Want to change a life over lunch? Become a mentor.

The Take Stock in Children program in Baker County is looking for new mentors to help change young lives in the community.

Take Stock is a statewide non-profit organization and the Foundation for Florida Gateway College serves as the lead agency for the program in Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union counties.

Take Stock in Children pairs good students, who have the odds stacked against them, with mentors for the support, encouragement and guidance they need to succeed in school. Mentors meet with them for 30 minutes every week on the school campus. All it takes is a little time to make a difference that will last a lifetime.

For more information on Take Stock in Children, contact the program office at 386-754-4392 or [antonia.robinson@fgc.edu](mailto:antonia.robinson@fgc.edu).

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