

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

83rd Year, Vol. 36 | Winner of 5 state awards for journalism excellence in 2011



TOP 10 IN '12

See pages 6 & 13 for top stories of the year

Above from left: In January BCHS celebrated its first-ever 'B' grade from the FDOE; in February a body was found in a burned out truck in downtown Macclenny; April saw a young mother killed in a wreck in Glen and the BCMS softball team won the district title; a Navy father surprised his twin sons at school in May; and in June the BCHS class of 1987 finally got to walk for their graduation. Below from left: A young boy was burned playing with a lighter in mid-June and life-flighted to Jacksonville; October brought a storm that toppled large trees around the area, the Olustee monument turned 100 years old and the candidates for sheriff faced off; in November the BCHS Wildcats won the district title and the year wrapped up on a somber note as a vigil was held at BCHS honoring Jordan Sommisse, who was killed in a wreck, and senior Corey Craig, who is still battling his injuries from the same the accident.



CIRCUIT COURT

7 years for kidnapping Co-defendant in a 2011 case

The remaining defendant in a February, 2011 abduction of a north county woman and her two small children was sent to prison for seven years after entering pleas to a series of charges in circuit court on December 18.

Harrison Turpin Jr., 66, will have to serve a minimum of three years because a firearm was used in the crimes he committed with his step-son Jesse Craddock, 25, who was sentenced earlier in the month to 13 years for his role in the kidnapping and a string of home burglaries in the north county in the weeks prior.



Harrison Turpin Jr.

Judge Phyllis Rosier, who on December 6 revoked Mr. Turpin's bond and jailed him pending sentencing, imposed a number of restrictions on the ailing defendant, including a three-year probation once he is released.

He also can have no contact with victim Debbie Donovan, his step-son's onetime girlfriend, or her two children. He is to refrain from alcohol use and cannot have a weapon.

Mr. Turpin pleaded to one count of kidnapping (two oth-

ers were dropped), armed burglary, felony fleeing and three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

He and Mr. Craddock went to Ms. Donovan's residence off CR 122 and, after beating her boyfriend Timothy Williams, fled with Ms. Donovan and the children south on CR 125 to near Odis Yarbrough Rd. where police gave chase. Their speeding pickup crashed near Macedonia and Mr. Turpin was injured.

Mr. Craddock ran from the scene, triggering a multi-agency man-hunt until he was tracked down the next morning off CR 23A.

Judge Rosier's order revoking Mr. Turpin's bond cited threats he made to his attorney Frank Maloney, Ms. Donovan and others. He also vowed never to be taken to prison alive.

Court records show his criminal record includes arrests for reckless endangerment, assault and battery.

In other prison sentences, Judge Rosier ordered Jessica Floyd to serve one year and a day less 89 days already served for possession of drugs while in county jail. The state dropped a companion charge of cocaine possession.

The same defendant drew a 15-month sentence less 209 days for sale with intent to sell and possession of controlled drugs. She was ordered into treatment for drug addiction.

Darrin Gibbons of Macclenny was sentenced to one year and a day in prison after

pleading to assault with a deadly weapon, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, disorderly intoxication and felony battery as a repeat offender.

The latter charge was downgraded from aggravated battery of his estranged wife, who was four months pregnant at the time.

Stephen Collett admitted to violating probation for aggravated assault, and in turn will serve a year and a day in prison and pay \$250 in fees.

Enoch Fraser III was given a year in county jail for battery on his father. The state dropped one count of abusing a disabled elderly person. His driver's license will also be suspended.

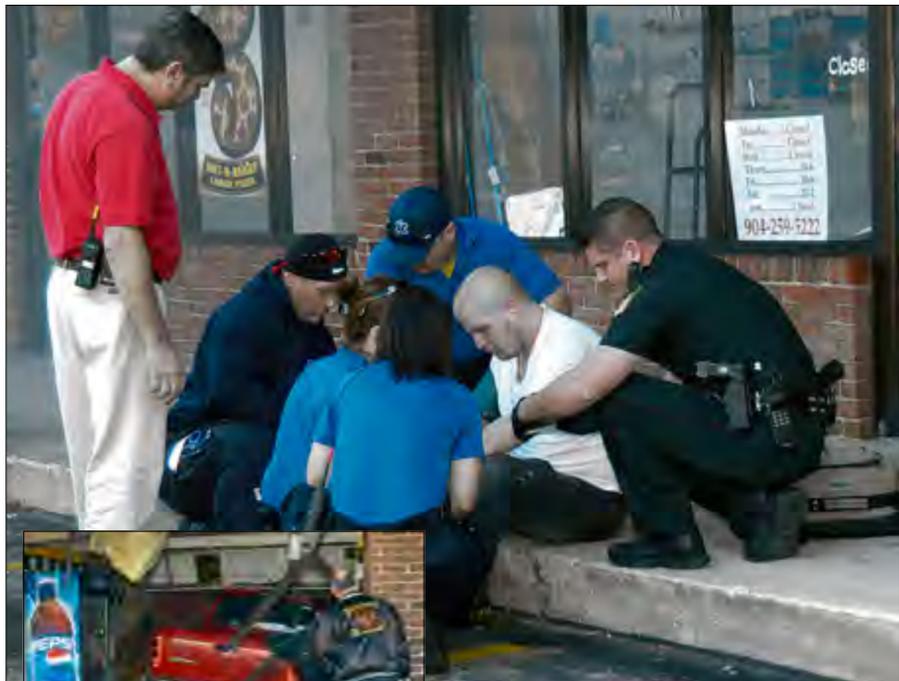
Lee Battles Jr. admitted to violating probation for felony fleeing, driving with a suspended license and possession of drug paraphernalia. The judge ordered him to pay a \$250 fee, revoking the original probation order and giving him an eight-month county jail term.

Randall Combs drew a year in county jail with his no contest plea to grand theft auto in a case dating back to July of this year.

A hold for federal authorities was placed on Joshua Davis after he serves an 11-month jail term for multiple counts of felony driving on a suspended license. The state dropped a third count.

A Glen St. Mary man and his mother were both ordered to re-pay a Macclenny man money they stole from his credit union accounts in the summer and fall of 2011.

See page 2



Paramedics and police tend to Leland Ireland after pulling him from the wreckage of his Dodge pickup that imbedded itself into the Little Caesar's pizza shop in west Macclenny the morning of December 20. County fire chief Richard Dolan peers into the wrecked interior.

Levels pizza restaurant

A Sanderson man who may have been impaired by a medical condition sped through the parking lot of a west Macclenny strip shopping center the morning of December 20, plowing into the Little Caesar's Pizza and demolishing the interior.

Three employees inside the take-out restaurant at 9 am were making dough in an adjoining section and escaped injury.

The careening 2002 Dodge Ram mowed down the front counter area reserved for customers to place orders and pick up food. The store had yet to open that day, and the trio of employees reported early that morning to prepare for a rush of pizzas ordered for Christmas parties at area schools and elsewhere.

"We were back there making dough and heard this crash, then saw this red truck literally driving into the counter," said manager Lynn Ploucher. "I thought 'My God, what is this?' and luckily I had

the presence of mind to shut off the (oven) gas."

Also in the store were her son Brandon and employee James Curry.

The driver of the pickup, Leland Ireland, 28, initially failed to stop at the nearby intersection of southbound Lowder St. with US 90, and struck the left side of a 1996 Chevrolet driven by Faye Raulerson, 72, one of several vehicles stopped on Lowder for the traffic light. She was not injured.

The truck then sped across the intersection and into the strip center parking lot on the southeast corner, continuing unimpeded as it jumped a curb and crashed through the front of the pizza store.

Mr. Ireland remained in the vehicle and was extracted by Macclenny firemen and rescue workers. A resulting fire blanketed the area with smoke and did further damage to the building's interior.

See page 2

Teens face gun theft and drug charges

See Page 4

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS
Does the state's school
grading system improve
academic performance?

69.2% No
30.8% Yes

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Jury says not guilty in rundown

A six-member jury acquitted a Glen St. Mary man on one felony count but found him guilty on two misdemeanors during a trial on December 11.

Preston Lamar Burns, 21, was arrested at a Glen residence shortly after he and co-defendant Christopher Henderson ran down store employee Don Weddle in the parking lot of the Citgo station at CR 125 and Interstate 10 the evening of January 11, 2012.

Mr. Weddle was injured when struck with the open passenger door of a vehicle occupied by the defendants. He was attempting to stop them from stealing beer from the store.

After the jury's verdict, Circuit Judge Phyllis Rosier counted the 42 days Mr. Burns spent in county jail following his arrest as sentence for petty theft and resisting detention. He will be on probation six months and was ordered to refrain from alcohol use during that time.

Levels a pizza store

Mr. Ireland appeared disoriented after he was brought outside and sat on a nearby sidewalk as he was initially questioned and examined. He was then transported to Fraser Hospital. He was alone in the vehicle.

He was charged by FHP Trooper Justin Smatt with careless driving. Alcohol was ruled out as a contributing factor.

Scott Lehman of Ocala, the franchise owner, was in Macclenny Friday meeting with an insurance adjuster and estimated the damage was well into the tens of thousands of dollars.

He said he was determined to re-open by March, earlier if possible.

"We're just so glad the people in there were okay. We can always re-build and that's what we're going to do. We love Macclenny," said Mr. Lehman, who has Little Caesar franchises in Starke, Ocala and Dunellon, FL.

The store was quickly boarded up later that day, and will miss out on the traditional second best sales week of the year — between Christmas and New Years.

The best week? According to Mr. Lehman, it's Halloween.

\$90K worth of materials taken at DuPont site

The sheriff's department is investigating the apparent theft of \$70,000 worth of piping and sheet metal from a DuPont mining work site off SR 228 south-east of Macclenny.

The inventory of missing property includes two 5-ton elbow cast pipes valued at \$30,000 each and an estimated \$10,000 in sheet metal both a half-inch and inch thick.

Company official Travis Jolley told Deputy Rodney Driggers that two DuPont employees saw a truck and a blue trailer leave the property about 7 am on December 15 and head east toward Jacksonville on 228. They assumed another work crew was transporting the materials.

Mr. Jolley called police on December 18 when he learned the property was stolen, and said the weighty materials were loaded on the trailer using a fork lift taken from a maintenance yard a half-mile away.

DuPont is conducting an extensive mining operation in that area of southeast Baker County. In a second commercial theft, copper wiring to four air conditioning units was stolen from behind the Baker Family YMCA building on Lowder St. in Macclenny.

Director Ryder Leary of the Y said the theft likely took place during a two-week period before December 19 when he reported it. Damage estimate was \$1200.

7 years for kidnap; other sentencings...

From page 1

• Jeremy Leonard, 27, entered no contest pleas to grand theft from a dwelling, grand theft, credit card fraud and exploitation of the elderly.

Judge Rosier placed him on a 30-month probation and ordered him to pay \$7479 back to victim Earl Yarbrough Sr.

His mother, 56-year-old Teresa Leonard, entered similar pleas to grand theft, credit card fraud and exploitation of the 74-year-old victim. Her restitution amount was nearly \$11,000.

• Brandon Johnson's no contest plea to grand theft drew a two-year probation. The judge allowed 59 days the defendant was in county jail as part of the sentence.

• Joseph Merkle pleaded no contest to sale with intent to sell and possession of controlled

drugs, and drew an 18-month probation. He was also assessed a \$240 investigatory cost.

• A year on probation was given to Sheila Zajkowski in return for her no contest plea to battery. A companion charge of aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony was dropped.

• A charge of grand theft was dropped as part of the agreement that allowed Justin Dinkins to enter a no contest plea to trafficking in stolen property. He will serve eight months in county jail and pay \$1200 restitution.

• Andre Garcia has already completed the 90-day jail sentence imposed for twin counts of burglary and theft, and will be on probation for two years. Judge Rosier withheld adjudication of guilt and the state dropped one count of criminal mischief.

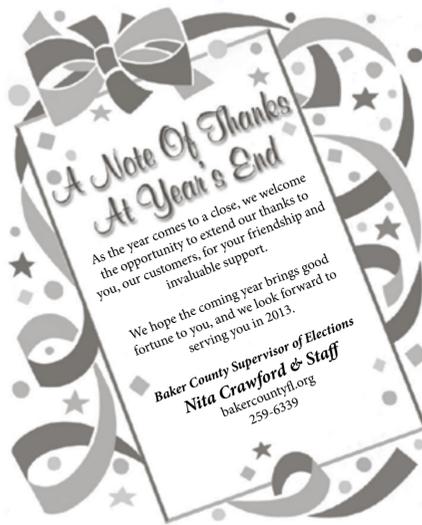


Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 10,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 110

Some signs to look for:
No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.
No babbling by 12 months.
No words by 18 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



A Note Of Thanks At Year's End

As the year comes to a close, we welcome the opportunity to extend our thanks to you, our customers, for your friendship and invaluable support.

We hope the coming year brings good fortune to you, and we look forward to serving you in 2013.

Baker County Supervisor of Elections
Nita Crawford & Staff
bakercountyfl.org
259-6339

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suggestions for reform of gun laws

Dear Editor:

The horror of what happened in Newtown, Connecticut will never go away.

Okay, go ahead and tighten up the assault weapons ban — again. We already have enough of them in circulation now to invade India anyway. Besides, the ammo costs something like \$2 a round.

We must all keep in mind the NRA is not the spokesman for gun owners. Wayne LaPierre is becoming more and more a creepy radical revolutionary. His Friday press conference offered a bizarre answer to school massacres by a "bad guy with a gun."

LaPierre's answer is a good guy with a gun. I don't trust him at all. I wonder how much the firearm manufacturers pay him. The media must stop glorifying the gun lobby. This is not a problem for the radical right or the liberal left; it is for all of us to handle. Especially not the NRA.

Here are a few thoughts:

✓ Limit the gun manufacturers to producing automatic assault weapons for military and governmental use. Review the legality of the weapons in 10 years; urge bolt action rifles and pump shotguns. They are more fun to shoot.

✓ Weapons salespeople must ration out the ammo for semi-automatic rifles. Cut the legal size of the clips to an acceptable count.

✓ Get those 50 caliber Black Mesas and cannons off the Internet.

✓ Release the marijuana violators from prison and put the gun law violators in their place.

✓ Require pistol and rifle range training, along with the background checks, for purchasers before sales are completed.

✓ Make the NRA pay into a fund for the families of victims in mass murder situations.

✓ As to the gun show loopholes — big deal. Make the sellers, including pawn shops owners, take classes and pass tests about guns, doing background checks and other strict requirements before they are licensed. That should raise the expert level of the sellers to that of the buyers. Make the "license to sell" hard to get and more treasured.

✓ Urge the print media weenies and TV talking heads to stop running screaming in the streets yelling, "Gun control!"

✓ Tell Hollywood WWII is over; the latest violent movie is nothing but trash.

Allow teachers to carry guns? Gimme a break. When another 20-year-old kid gathers up four Glock, six Berettas, three Bushmasters, three shotguns, a Gatling Gun, and an RPG launcher plus 5,000 rounds of ammunition and heads toward an elementary school to slaughter people and then pops himself like a coward, I propose this response.

Sue the ammo and gun manufacturer and put the parents of the murderer in jail. Maybe the grandparents, too. These murderers are cowards; they always blow their own brains out at the end. I hope they end up barking and frying in hell.

Video games — which are really just cartoons — are an underlying creator of these kooky murderers. Let us recognize that the latest box office smash hit with amazing graphic clarity with heads getting blown off and bodies dismembered, are the underlying cause for the creation of an Adam Lanza.

Just stop it.

Reed Dearing
Macclenny

Give us rough trails!

Dear Editor:

We waited years and had many delays before getting a good place to ride our 4-wheelers. Unfortunately it lasted a very short time before Shoals Park was closed to repair the roads and stayed closed for months and months with no word on when it would reopen (just try to get information about it).

Now we see that it will re-open in January (maybe) after extensive road repairs and a lot of money spent.

We 4-wheelers don't want smooth, graded roads — that's the idea of off-road. Leave the trails alone, forget about fees and just let people have fun without a lot of government messing around in it.

Mitch Holloway
Macclenny



Gingerbread house sweepstakes

"Hold on a minute. Where are you taking that," said wife Kelley as I walked through the living room with the Christmas wreath. She was busy decorating the Christmas tree.

"I'm hanging it on the door."

"Not like that you aren't. You have to fluff it."

"I have to what?"

"Fluff it. It's been pressed down in the box for a year. It needs fluffing."

I mess with it a little.

"No. That's not how you fluff it. Give it here."

I do. She begins by working on the bows and the garland until it is no longer compressed but is all — fluffed.

"Ah. So that is fluffing."

"Yes."

"It's kind of like what you do to your hair every morning."

"No. That is called 'working the pouf.'"

"Working the pouf. You have your own language, don't you? You speak the Common Tongue but also your own — girl language."

"Yes. I'm multi-lingual. You can hang this up now."

We are in a frenzy of decoration because it is time for the Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, along with other festivities and we are busy preparing the house so it looks, as Kelley says "Christ-

mas."

The contest is something we've done for some years now where friends and family compete against each other to see who has the most creative and beautiful gingerbread house.

It's hard to judge because no one really wants to take the abuse that comes with picking one over the other.

It's a thankless, dangerous task like being an international soccer referee. Since I am a neutral party and don't compete I have often been urged to be the judge, but I'm no fool.

There are rules everyone ignores. It's supposed to be all in fun, but most of the people who take part are highly competitive which means there will be some finger pointing and charges of cheating with the accompanying smack talking — in a good natured way of course.

The smack started early where my children are concerned. Dylan and Sara are both high school teachers and Dylan and his entire class invaded Sara's 4th period to tell her how "she was going down," and going to lose miserably. The game was on.

Spencer kept a very low profile, but when I got home from school the day of the contest the house smelled of burnt gin-

gerbread. He and his partner Lew Boyette had been baking gingerbread in custom shapes.

"We're making a medieval castle. You can't buy those in stores."

The odds on favorite is Cheryl Hart and her sister Kathy Crews. Their gingerbread house is usually beautiful with a yard and some special feature. This year it was a working chimney. She put a piece of burning incense in the chimney so it would smoke.

"It smells like a 1970s dorm room in here," I commented as I walked through.

Spencer and Lew's castle was indeed massive and impressive. Dylan had thrown in with Sarah, Marci and Robin Davis for a more traditional look. Cami and Lewyn Boyette had combined two kits for a split-level house.

"Do you have *The Brady Bunch* made out of caramels?" I asked.

Sara Beth and her fiancé Aaron Summers have eschewed gingerbread altogether in favor of pretzel logs and were busy with Abraham Lincoln's log cabin. It was pretty cool.

It's been a busy holiday season so far, but it sort of arrived when we weren't looking.

My sister welcomed a new litter of holiday schnauzers. We celebrated Dick Johnson's 80th birthday at a restaurant in the Town Center. I hope I look like Dick when I hit that age. Come to think of it, he looks better than I do now.

As I write this I hear gifts being wrapped and good smells are wafting from our kitchen. It's Christmas Eve and I am thankful. Thankful for my close-knit family and friends that will gather this evening for the Methodist Church's annual candlelight service. It's our tradition with Betty Sands. Thankful that tomorrow as we eat dinner our tables will be full of smiling, grateful faces with a healthy Carl Norman and two new babies, Berkeley and G.W. We will each miss our Aunt Debbie, but the cycle of life continues as will our love and Christmas traditions.

Merry Christmas all.

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

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Facebook fans

'What you had to say ...'

We turned to Facebook early this week to ask readers about their best gifts this year. Here's a look at their answers:

Jeremy Peters: My 46-inch flat screen TV.

Crystal Sisk: Being with my family.

James-Sabra Sweat Rhue: My twin grand-daughters that we're born 7 weeks early on Dec. 19 was the best gift EVER.

Scott Shannon: Dec2nd ... Those lying Myans.

Cindy Watts: The joy and warmth of being with my family.

Craig Hodges: A Nuwave oven.

Damien Moralez: My husband home from deployment. He goes back out soon.

Jason Knabb: Family time.

Louise Curtis Smith: Spending Christmas with my family!

Nancy Kasik Wilson: My aged mother got saved this year and went on to be with the Lord Christmas evenings.

Lorie Williams: Quality time with family!

Donna Moore: My granddaughter's smile.

Raymond Phillips: The Love of my wife.

Adam Barnes: The time spent with family.

Tammy Crawford McFarland: The love of my husband and Jesus Christ.

Kelley Norman: My father is cancer free!

Jessica Lauren Hudnall: The smile on my little girls face melted my heart!

Jeremy Pickett: The love of my three girls.

Schell Barber: Another wonderful Christmas spent with my husband and our family and the joy of seeing our kids opening their gifts and their priceless looks on their faces!

Paula Richelle Godwin Miller: The smiles on my grandchildren's faces. They are my heart. Here's to the New Year and all it holds in store.

Richard Clark: The love of my wife and daughter and the piece of mind that Jesus is in control.

Cheri McLelland: Seeing the joy on my kids faces when they woke up to see that Santa ate the treats they left

out for him.

Julie Christine Sowell: Being with the best family ever, so many laughs, food, and fun, thanks to the best family ever, love you all!

Kelly Matthews: A Christmas card from my ex in laws proving although you are divorced from the child's father you are still considered family four years later.

Patricia Carol Smith Nation: Watching my little grandsons open their gifts.

Tammy Daniels: We was able to give our parents the gift they wanted for all kids to be home. Tim and Lucille G. Fox got the surprise. Michelle Andrews, Tammy Daniels, Nancy Daniels, Tammy Daniels, Nancy Daniels, Stephanie Troester, and Johnny Daniels, it had been 9 years that we all have been together. It was an awesome Christmas for our family.

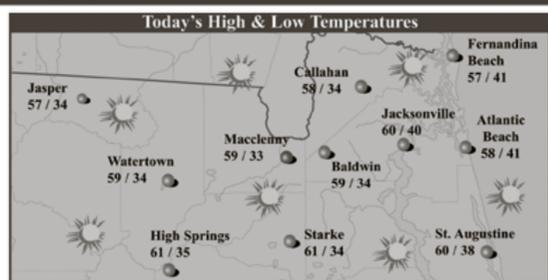
Sarah Elizabeth Williams: My wonderful sister, Chelsea, getting to come home for Christmas after surgery on Christmas Eve.

Meike Frazee: The best gift I think that everybody received is JESUS!

Claudia Henry: Spending time with my daughter and my son. We are never home at the same time anymore.

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 precip.

Dec. 27, 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 section for Dec. 27, 1982, detailing a storm event.

Merry Christmas AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS. First Federal Bank of Florida logo.

Juveniles admit to stealing guns from a residence

A sheriff's investigator arrested three juvenile males for the burglary of a Sanderson residence where they admitted stealing two pistols and a shotgun that were later recovered.

Prowler is arrested with a burglary tool

Police arrested a Macclenny man the morning of December 18 and charged him with prowling around a residence on Dupree Rd. and possession of a burglary tool.

Couple draws cops thrice in two days

County deputies filed three separate incident reports over a two-day period involving a boyfriend and girlfriend with a history of both physical and drug abuse.

Out of County Subscribers. Fed up with your copy of The Press arriving late, or not at all? We have a cost-effective solution to your problem.

Arrested trying to leave Walmart with \$5K in merchandise

A number of arrests and criminal complaints resulted from pre-Christmas shoplifting at the Macclenny Walmart, including a Jacksonville woman who attempted to leave the store the evening of December 23 with \$5147 in merchandise.

Parked semi ransacked

Damage and property loss was in the thousands of dollars after an overnight ransacking of a parked semi-truck on Turner Cemetery Rd. in north Baker County on December 21.

Arrest for DUI after traffic stop

A Macclenny man whose vehicle was stopped by police in the north city was charged with drunk driving early on December 18 after he failed field sobriety tests and refused to submit to a breath test at county jail.

Arrested trying to leave Walmart with \$5K in merchandise

A store security worker saw two other females loading items ranging from computer software to a cell phone and clothing into a suitcase and shopping cart before leaving the store and getting into a Chevrolet Impala in the parking lot.

Parked semi ransacked

The victim told Deputy Ben Anderson that Ms. Teems, who lives at her address, had driven her to the doctor's office near Fraser Hospital that morning and said she was going outside to smoke a cigarette. She never returned.

Arrest for DUI after traffic stop

He noted the license number and Deputy Johnny Hodges said it was traced to a Maxville woman.

Juveniles admit to stealing guns from a residence

Two of the youths face felony drug charges in addition to counts of armed burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief.

Prowler is arrested with a burglary tool

Deputy Rodney Driggers and Sgt. Brad Dougherty responded to the address of Donald Cox, who had been alerted by his wife about 6 am after she heard knocking on doors and windows and ringing the door bell.

Couple draws cops thrice in two days

Deputy Robert Simpkins advised him to cease provocative actions, and was told by other witnesses that Mr. Mash again brandished the rifle in the air from a vehicle after the deputy went to speak with Mr. Pryde.

Arrested trying to leave Walmart with \$5K in merchandise

The couple attempted to leave the store with two scooters, clothing, food and other items they were observed placing into plastic shopping bags about 6:30 pm.

Parked semi ransacked

The sheriff's department put the vehicle into a crime computer bank and both it and the suspect were located at a convenience store in Worthington Springs.

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The couple attempted to leave the store with two scooters, clothing, food and other items they were observed placing into plastic shopping bags about 6:30 pm.

Parked semi ransacked

The sheriff's department put the vehicle into a crime computer bank and both it and the suspect were located at a convenience store in Worthington Springs.

Juveniles admit to stealing guns from a residence

Two of the youths face felony drug charges in addition to counts of armed burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief.

Prowler is arrested with a burglary tool

Deputy Rodney Driggers and Sgt. Brad Dougherty responded to the address of Donald Cox, who had been alerted by his wife about 6 am after she heard knocking on doors and windows and ringing the door bell.

Couple draws cops thrice in two days

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HATS OFF TO THE NEW YEAR. From your friends at Oldcastle we want to wish you all the best in the coming year. Please visit us anytime at www.oldcastle-baker.com

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www.autocrafterscollision.com. S & L AUTO GLASS. S & L Auto Glass (904) 384-5146 1-888-452-7720.

Country Federal CREDIT UNION. 602 S. Sixth Street, Macclenny • 259-6702. 9140 CR 229, Sanderson • 259-6702.

Open 24/7 @ www.countryfcu.com. Baker County Health Department. 480 W. Lowder St., Macclenny 259-6291.

Don't Miss Today's JOB FAIR! We are hiring for immediate openings: Managers, Supervisors, Custodians, Floor Techs. DATE: December 27, 2012 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) December 28, 2012 (9:00 am - 12:00 pm).



PHOTO BY JUD JONSSON

Gift wrap benefits youth campers

Teens, including Elizabeth Moseley above, who is putting the finishing touches on a package, wrapped Christmas gifts December 21 through 23 to raise funds for Anne Lewis' (pictured back right) annual leadership camp. Camp 5.T.Y.L.E. They worked from inside a trailer at the Phantom Fireworks parking lot for the 13th annual event.

Speeding motorist wanted in 2 counties

A motorist pulled over for going nearly 100 mph on US 90 near Olustee early on December 23 turned out to be wanted in two counties as an habitual offender for driving on a suspended license.

Jesse Gibson Jr., 29, of Lake City initially gave Deputy Daryl Mobley a false name when the officer stopped the 2008 Chevrolet the suspect was driving eastbound about 12:30 a.m. He had clocked the vehicle at 98 mph. The deputy obtained the driver's real name from a Florida ID and learned he had warrants from both Duval and Columbia counties for the license offense and for resisting police without violence.

He was taken to Baker County jail charged with similar offenses, and for driving without a seat belt. The vehicle belonged to Amy Dobson, 36, also of Lake City, who was the sole passenger. Deputy Mobley said Mr. Gibson's wallet also contained three credit cards issued to other names, and several bags of clothing and shoes were in the vehicle. One of the receipts had the last four numbers of one of the credit cards.

Potential charges connected to the credit cards are pending further investigation.

In other warrant-related arrests: • Richard Rafeuse, 25, of Macclenny was jailed the evening of December 22 after Deputy Jacob Satterwhite learned he was wanted in Duval County for three counts of fraud.

Mr. Rafeuse was the driver of a Ford Ranger stopped just before 11 pm on CR 228 for reckless driving.

• Deputy Robert Simpkins arrested Marleon Farmer, 24, at his residence on Tony Givens Rd. north of Sanderson the afternoon of December 20 on a Baker County warrant for failure to pay child support.

During a routine body search, the deputy said he found a plastic container with crack cocaine and a baggie of marijuana. Mr. Farmer was also booked on both felony and misdemeanor possession charges.

Several persons already in county jail were arrested on outstanding warrants: Robert Sanders, 26, of Sanderson, wanted in Clay County for failure to pay child support; Gregory Sheffield, 23, of St. George, GA, wanted in Charlton County for failure to appear in court; Kerry Thomas, 48, of Glen St. Mary on a Clay County warrant for failure to appear in court.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 02-2012-CA-00223
RASC 2005-KS2, PLAINTIFF, VS. ONA FRANCES DAVIS, ET AL. DEFENDANTS).

NOTICE OF ACTION (Constructive Service – Property)
TO: ONA FRANCES DAVIS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
18458 NEH RAILROAD RD
SANDERSON, FL 32087

WHEREAS A Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in this Court regarding the above-referenced child, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR before the Honorable Joseph M. Williams, Acting Circuit Judge, at the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida, on January 30, 2013, at 9:20 A.M., for a Termination of Parental Rights Advisory Hearing.

YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED HEREIN.
FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT.

Witness my hand and seal of this Court at Macclenny, Baker County, Florida, on the 6th day of December 2012.

AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Judy Rhoden, Deputy Clerk

Department of Children and Family Services

James Kirkconnell, Esq. Florida Bar No. 21044 Children's Legal Services 1250 Andrews Circle Starks, FL 32091 (904) 964-1566

Under the American with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at Interpreters@circlink.org

12/13, 20, 27-1/31/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO. 02-2012-DP-13

IN THE INTEREST OF: B.T. DOB: 05-20-2011 MINOR CHILD

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ADVISORY HEARING FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND GUARDIANSHIP

TO: Rebekah Lee Ray (address unknown)
WHEREAS A Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in this Court regarding the above-referenced child, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR before the Honorable Joseph M. Williams, Acting Circuit Judge, at the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida, on January 30, 2013, at 9:20 A.M., for a Termination of Parental Rights Advisory Hearing.

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AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

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12/13, 20, 27-1/31/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 02-2012-CP-30

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ELVIRA D. BRANIGAN, Decedent.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Please take notice of the following estate administration: The name of the decedent is Elvira D. Branigan; the file number of the estate is 02-2012-CP-30; the court is the Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Baker County, Florida, located at 527 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063; the personal representative is E. Barbara Barts, at PO Box 1667, Macclenny, FL 32063; who is a member of the Florida Bar; and the date of first publication of the notice to creditors is December 27, 2012.

You are required to file all claims against the estate with the court within the time provided by law.

MANNIKKO & BARS
E. Barbara Barts #0894052
P.O. Box 1667
Macclenny, Florida 32063
904 259 4134 phone
800 988 6018 fax
hbarts@getallwet.net
12/27-1/3c

12/27-1/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 02-2012-DP-13

IN THE INTEREST OF: B.T. DOB: 05-20-2011 MINOR CHILD

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ADVISORY HEARING FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND GUARDIANSHIP

TO: BRIAN TAYLOR (address unknown)
WHEREAS A Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in this Court regarding the above-referenced child, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR before the Honorable Joseph M. Williams, Acting Circuit Judge, at the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida, on January 30, 2013, at 9:20 A.M., for a Termination of Parental Rights Advisory Hearing.

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Pursuant to Sections 39.2004(d)(6) and 63.082(6)(g), Florida Statutes, you are hereby informed of the availability of private placement with an adoption entity as defined in Section 63.032(3), Florida Statutes.

Witness my hand and seal of this Court at Macclenny, Baker County, Florida, on the 6th day of December 2012.

AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Judy Rhoden, Deputy Clerk

Department of Children and Family Services

James Kirkconnell, Esq. Florida Bar No. 21044 Children's Legal Services 1250 Andrews Circle Starks, FL 32091 (904) 964-1566

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12/13, 20, 27-1/31/3c

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IN THE INTEREST OF: B.T. DOB: 05-20-2011 MINOR CHILD

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ADVISORY HEARING FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND GUARDIANSHIP

TO: Rebekah Lee Ray (address unknown)
WHEREAS A Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in this Court regarding the above-referenced child, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Court.

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AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Judy Rhoden, Deputy Clerk

Department of Children and Family Services

James Kirkconnell, Esq. Florida Bar No. 21044 Children's Legal Services 1250 Andrews Circle Starks, FL 32091 (904) 964-1566

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12/13, 20, 27-1/31/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 02-2012-CP-30

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ELVIRA D. BRANIGAN, Decedent.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Please take notice of the following estate administration: The name of the decedent is Elvira D. Branigan; the file number of the estate is 02-2012-CP-30; the court is the Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Baker County, Florida, located at 527 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063; the personal representative is E. Barbara Barts, at PO Box 1667, Macclenny, FL 32063; who is a member of the Florida Bar; and the date of first publication of the notice to creditors is December 27, 2012.

You are required to file all claims against the estate with the court within the time provided by law.

MANNIKKO & BARS
E. Barbara Barts #0894052
P.O. Box 1667
Macclenny, Florida 32063
904 259 4134 phone
800 988 6018 fax
hbarts@getallwet.net
12/27-1/3c

12/27-1/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 12000773CA

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. Plaintiff, vs. Aracelis Dixon, The Unknown Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Liens, Creditors, Trustees, and All Other Parties Claiming an Interest by Through, Under or Against the Estate of Rosa Marie Dixon, Decedent, Unknown Tenant #2 Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 22, 2012, entered in Case No. 12000773CA of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. is the Plaintiff and Aracelis Dixon, The Unknown Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Liens, Creditors, Trustees, and All Other Parties Claiming an Interest by Through, Under or Against the Estate of Rosa Marie Dixon, Decedent, Unknown Tenant #1; Unknown Tenant #2 are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the east door of the courthouse at 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 14th day of January, 2013, the following real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A LOT BEGINNING ON THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 1/2 OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, AT A POINT OF BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF NW 1/4, THENCE RUN WEST 145 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 145 FEET, THENCE RUN EAST 145 FEET, AND THENCE RUN NORTH 145 FEET TO A POINT OF BEGINNING TOGETHER WITH A 2001 SINGLE-WIDE MOBILE HOME, VIN #HW00111556A.

Dated this 12 day of January, 2012.

AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Brenda Wilson, As Deputy Clerk

1989 Ridge Parkway, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Jessica Fagen@brocknandscott.com

12/20-27c

A, R&R, INC
10525 DUVAL LANE
MACCLENNEY, FL 32063
Phone (904) 259-4774

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction January 11, 2013 at 10:00 am at A, R&R INC, 10525 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063.

1989 Dodge Dakota
VIN # 1B7FG27XZ274566
2001 Acura 4
VIN # 190UA56811A014025

12/27c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 02-2012-CA-00230

IN THE INTEREST OF: B.T. DOB: 05-20-2011 MINOR CHILD

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ADVISORY HEARING FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND GUARDIANSHIP

TO: Devorn Burnised
WHEREAS A Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in this Court regarding the above-referenced child, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR before the Honorable Joseph M. Williams, Acting Circuit Judge, at the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida, on January 30, 2013, at 9:20 A.M., for a Termination of Parental Rights Advisory Hearing.

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Witness my hand and seal of this Court at Macclenny, Baker County, Florida, on the 6th day of December 2012.

AL FRASER AS CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Judy Rhoden, Deputy Clerk

Department of Children and Family Services

James Kirkconnell, Esq. Florida Bar No. 21044 Children's Legal Services 1250 Andrews Circle Starks, FL 32091 (904) 964-1566

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12/13, 20, 27-1/31/3c

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Incinerator, sand mining opposition top news

Three projects with clear impacts to the environment of Baker County, all of which drew heavy opposition from many county residents, comprise the top two stories of 2012.

But atop the list are the two sand mining proposals still pending before regulators, and on course to go before the Baker County Commission in 2013.

The twin sand mining proposals from two different companies surfaced in May, sparking widespread concern about associated environmental risks — namely the local water supply — plus traffic impacts.

Tampa-based Old Castle Southern Group applied for permits to withdraw more than 2 million gallons per day for five years from the lower aquifer in the southeastern county. Lake Wales-based E.R. Jahna made a similar withdrawal request in the northeastern county.

Both sites have agriculture zoning designations, so the companies also need the county commission to approve special exceptions to its zoning rules that generally prohibit mining on those lands.

In June the county commission tabled consideration of the mining plans and scheduled a hearing for August. The board also approved hiring — at the companies' expense — a third-party engineer to study the proposals and render an opinion on the potential for environmental harm.

The engineer, however, was unable to reach a definitive conclusion by the August hearing due to a lack of information provided to regulators via the permitting process, which remains ongoing.

The location of the hearing was moved to the courthouse to accommodate the large crowd expected to attend.

The stage was set for a final decision, but about 45 minutes before the commission was to vote on the special exceptions for sand mining, the companies withdrew their applications, angering a number of the project's opponents.

Commissioners have not taken up the matter since then, but three members of the five-member panel — James Croft, Mark Hartley and Gordon Crews — have said publicly they do not support the mining plans. The other two commissioners, Adam Giddens and Jimmy Anderson, say they will reserve judgement until the matter comes to a vote.

The number two story of 2012 is the demise of a Pennsylvania-based medical waste disposal company's plan to build an incinerator northeast of Macclenny. That project predated the sand mining proposals and may have soured public opinion on future projects with environmental impacts like the mines.

The plan from Integrated Waste Management Systems, Inc. became public in March after The Press learned the company had submitted documents to the county's planning and zoning office outlining its intentions for a roughly 90,000-square-foot facility immediately north of the Walmart Distribution Center.

But as details of the medical waste incinerator were reported to readers, a citizen opposition group emerged and took to the Internet to launch a "No Bio in Baker" campaign. A reference to the official name of the "Bio-medical Thermal Reduction Facility" being floated.

At the project's first public hearing before the Baker County Commission in April, residents packed the commission's chambers for two hours. Speaker after speaker voiced reservations about the project, namely that it could harm air quality and create other nuisances for residents.

Commissioners delayed voting on the proposal until a second and final public hearing.

The company later asked the county commission to defer taking any action on a development agreement with Integrated Waste Management Systems and today the proposal appears dead. But it's also never been voted up or down by commissioners.

The arrest of former Macclenny physician Charles Scar-

borough, 76, in late October on more than 800 counts of health insurance fraud, including one count in excess of \$50,000, ranks third on the top stories of 2012.

For years Dr. Scarborough's South Fifth Street office was known as a haven for those seeking prescription pain relief medication and earlier this month its former office manager, Veronica Alford, 42, pleaded no contest in circuit court to obtaining prescription drugs by fraud and received three years on drug offender probation.

The investigation into the doctor's office began in 2011 when authorities identified Dr. Scarborough as "a significant prescriber of controlled substances in Northeast Florida," according to a statement from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement released after his arrest.

FDLE reported that investigators discovered evidence allegedly linking the former Macclenny resident to overprescribing medications and allowing unlicensed and untrained staff to practice medicine.

Charges against three other suspects related to prescription drug possession and trafficking were dropped by prosecutors because evidence that led to their arrest was gathered by the sheriff's office from patient records obtained without a warrant or patient consent, as required by law.

Last fall's election, which comes in at number four, went well for incumbents.

The election reassured Sheriff Joey Dobson's overwhelming support among county voters. He won a fifth term in office with 77 percent of the vote.

Only one non-incumbent, second-time county commissioner James Croft, succeeded in 2012 at the county level. He occupied the same position in the late 1980s, too.

Many other incumbents running for constitutional offices, the Macclenny City Commission and other local posts did not draw opposition, however.

Two Democrat county commissioners — Mark Hartley and Gordon Crews — won re-election, but all the commission races were relatively close contests.

Formulating a balanced budget that's less dependent on reserve funds (which county officials expect to be too low to use once again) will perhaps be the county commission's toughest task in the coming year.

During the current fiscal year, the county anticipates using more than \$2 million in savings to balance its spending plans. Also of note, the county's voter turnout this year at more than 80 percent was among the highest in Florida.

Early voting continued to be popular as well. Nearly half of all votes cast, 48 percent, arrived before election day.

Tropical Storm Debby in late June took a heavy toll on area roadways, bridges and homes this year, making it number five on the top 10.

After a dry spell in the spring accompanied by a string of wild fires, Tropical Storm Beryl in late May dropped an estimated 5-1/2 inches within a few days and the rain kept on coming.

Some 15-inches accumulated over a 30-day period before Tropical Storm Debby arrived in the region.

County commissioners declared a state of emergency on June 26 to make way for the federal disaster assistance that would follow the storm. In the meantime, the county experienced more than 50 roadway closures, including a roughly 25-

OBITUARIES

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DECEMBER 27, 2012

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

CONTACT US

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

Weir Barton Sr. dies December 22

Weir Stewart Barton Sr., 64, of Sanderson died on December 22, 2012 at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. He was born in Glen St. Mary on November 1, 1948 to the late Martin Barton Jr. and Mary Griffith Barton, and was a lifelong resident of Baker County. He was a longtime member of Faith Baptist Church where he served as a deacon for forty years. He served in the United States Marine Corps and retired as a corrections officer from Florida State Prison after 30 years of employment and more recently was employed by Northeast Florida State Hospital as a security officer for over four years.



Weir Barton Sr.

Mr. Barton enjoyed hunting and was deeply committed to the bus ministry at his church. He was preceded in death by his sister Schere Barton.

He is survived by his loving wife Barbara Lee Barton of Sanderson; children Weir Stewart (Barbara) Barton Jr. of Glen St. Mary, Tiffany (Chris) Blizard and Rhoda (Justin) Treadwell of Macclenny; brothers Isaac (Diane) Holt of Pavo, GA, Martin (Rochelle) Barton III of Colorado Springs, CO, George (Linda) Barton of Sanderson and Clyde (Joann) Barton of Colorado Springs; sisters Regina (Lonnie) Bryant of Taylor and Seleeba (Jimmy) Morris of Jacksonville; grandchildren Natalee Barton and Jax Blizard.

The funeral service for Mr. Barton will be held on Friday, December 28 at 11 am at his church with Pastor Torran Dismuke officiating. Interment will follow at Macedonia Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday December 27 from 6-8 pm at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Faith Baptist Church building fund. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

James Lawrence, the father of locals

James E. Lawrence Sr., 76, of Frankfort, Indiana died on December 13, 2012 at his home. He was born on January 16, 1936 in Geneva County, Alabama to John D. and Effie May (Brooks) Lawrence and married Barbara Fleorn on December 27, 1979 in Kingson, GA. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard an amphibious assault personnel carrier from 1952-55 during the Korean War. Mr. Lawrence worked 45 years for Miller Pipeline Construction as superintendent and foreman, and retired in 1998. He was a member of the Local 103 Operating Engineers Union.

He is survived by wife Barbara; sons James E. (Angela) Lawrence Jr. of Macclenny and Jerry D. (fiancee Jennifer Bailey) Lawrence of Frankfort; daughter Tammy Lynn (Charles) Ross of Macclenny; step-sons Timothy Brough of Pekin, IN and Irvin Brough Jr. of Clearwater, FL; step-daughter Jackqueline (Jim) Thornton of Paoli, IN and six brothers. Mr. Lawrence was preceded in death by son Ricky Lee, one brother and two sisters.

The funeral service was held at noon on Monday, December 17 at Archer Weston Funeral Home in Frankfort. Interment was in Green Lawn Mausoleum in Frankfort.

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Faye McCollum dies December 19

Sylvia Faye McCollum of Macclenny died on Wednesday, December 19, at her residence following a lengthy illness. She was a homemaker and enjoyed working in her garden, fishing and found a sense of peace in taking care of her family and friends. She was the wife of the late Calvin Grant "Mac" McCollum and was preceded in death by parents Herbert and Eva Mae Crews Harris and her sister Eloise Harris Crews. She was born in Jacksonville and resided in Macclenny all of her life.



Faye McCollum

Mrs. McCollum is survived by sons Randy Long, Ronnie (Jill) Long and Ricky Long, all of Baker County; step-son Char (Debbie) McCollum of Jacksonville; grandchildren Dawson Allen Long, Jordan Zoe Long and Lacey Lee King; sister Linda (Jim) Pifer and brother Herbert (Sherry) Harris Jr., both of Glen St. Mary; nieces and nephews and her pet companion Lizzie.

The funeral service was held at 3 pm Saturday, December 22 at Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church with Rev. David Thomas officiating, assisted by Rev. Justin Griffis. Interment was at South Prong Cemetery, Sanderson. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Thanks so much

The family of Castile Farmer Williams of Margaretta would like to thank everyone for your kindness, cards, phone calls and expressions of sympathy and love shown us during our bereavement. Special thanks for Elder Joe Ruise, Elder Armstrong and the Church of God by Faith in Sanderson. May God continue to bless each of you.

The Farmer and Williams family

In loving memory of Dorothy Mae Malloy (Mema)

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Mike Yarbrough dies December 21

Michael Vincent Yarbrough, 68, of Kernersville, N.C. died on Friday, December 21, 2012 at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. He was born on January 21, 1944 in Taylor to Henrietta L. Yarbrough and the late Roy Yarbrough. Michael was a proud graduate of the University of Florida where he received a PhD in philosophy and a master's degree in linguistics. He most recently taught philosophy and Southern literature at Wake Forest University. Michael loved cycling, fishing, hiking and gardening.



Mike Yarbrough

In addition to his mother he is survived by wife Kathleen Ann Sumrall Yarbrough of Kernersville; sisters Ruby (Bill) Berg and Janie (Mike) Dennard, all of Macclenny; nephews Brent Denard of Macclenny and George Barg of Jacksonville; niece Judith Perez of Colorado Springs, CO; sister-in-law Shelley Biesenberger of Walkertown.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date. Hayworth Miller Kernersville Chapel was in charge of arrangements.



In loving memory of Sheila M. Kennedy (Little Bit)

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It has been six years since God called you home on Christmas Day to be with Him in your heavenly home. We love you and miss you so much. You left a big hole in our hearts when the Lord called you home to be with Him on Christmas morning.

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LOVE YOU ALWAYS,
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Check it out...
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Goes on leave for TB position

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Nearly three months ago, Baker County Health Department director Kerry Dunlavey returned to the place where she began her career in public health more than two decades ago — the Duval County Health Department's tuberculosis program.

This year, however, she wasn't part of a routine prevention program. She was asked to be the deputy incident commander of the TB outbreak largely among Jacksonville's homeless population.

"I think the reason they picked me is because I started my public health career at the Duval County Health Department in the TB program in 1989. They knew of my experience in TB and that's really an asset to be the incident commander," said Ms. Dunlavey last week, when the Florida Department of Health announced the move.

Ms. Dunlavey is set to take over as incident commander January 1, replacing Dr. Bonnie Sorensen, who was installed as the interim director of the Duval County Health Department and incident commander of the TB outbreak after former director Dr. Bob Harmon resigned in the wake of news reports that his agency failed to notify the public about the sometimes deadly and contagious bacteria strain that killed about a dozen people and infected dozens more since 2008.

The public and key decision makers, including state legislators and Governor Rick Scott, who ordered the closing of a TB hospital in Latana, FL last spring that treated difficult TB cases, were not made aware of the outbreak until last June. That was after *The Palm Beach Post* uncovered a report from the Centers for Disease Control and started asking questions and requesting public records from the Florida Department of Health regarding the outbreak.

Dr. Sorensen was heading up

the Volusia County Health Department before she was called upon to contain the outbreak in Jacksonville.

The state department said last week the interim director would be replaced by Dr. Dawn Allcock, who is the current director of the St. Johns County Health Department.

The incident commander assignment for Ms. Dunlavey is temporary, she said. She will return to her directorship at the Baker County Health Department, perhaps in "a couple of months, maybe sooner."

"I have not abandoned Baker County," said Ms. Dunlavey, adding that she's stayed in close contact with the office's department heads by phone and e-mail.

"These are professional people. That's a sign of a good health department — the director can assist elsewhere and everything just keeps going and going well," she said. "They're just a great staff."

Still, he said, she's committed to coming to Baker County, in person, once a week going forward.

Since July, the TB outbreak response in Jacksonville, which has largely focused on the homeless population, has identified about 2100 "high priority" people, who may have come into contact with the TB strain that first appeared in a patient at a residential mental health facility in 2008. Ms. Dunlavey said the effort has located and tested 76 percent of the people on that list.

"Some are deceased, some are out of the state, some have gone to other Florida counties, and a small percentage we can't find and we're looking for them," she said. "They're really doing a phenomenal job of getting all these people tested."

The testing and treatment effort has confirmed 29 cases of TB, including one in Baker County. That person, Ms. Dunlavey said, arrived here from Duval County, has finished treatment and is fine.

"I've enjoyed it," she said of her role in the TB response, "but I miss Baker County."

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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

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84% get 'highly effective' rating

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Teachers and other employees of the Baker County School District received high marks on the state's revamped performance evaluation system that takes into account student performance.

In fact, Baker County had the highest percentages of personnel rated "highly-effective" in the seven-county region of northeast Florida.

The new performance evaluations, which were mandated as part of the 2011 education reforms contained in the Student Success Act or SB 736, rates teachers, non-instructional staff like librarians and principals with four designations: highly effective, effective, needs improvement or unsatisfactory.

Those rated unsatisfactory for two consecutive years, or two out of three years, face termination if deficiencies are not corrected.

According to performance evaluation results released by the Florida Department of Education earlier this month, 83.9 percent of Baker County's teachers were labeled highly effective, 12.5 percent were deemed effective and 2.6 percent, or eight teachers, got needs improvement.

Another teacher was given a special needs improvement designation reserved for teachers within their first three years on the job. Twenty-eight teachers, or 8.3 percent, were not evaluated.

Baker County's proportion of highly effective teachers topped those in St. Johns (33.8%), Bradford (6.8%), Union (9.1%), Clay (69.4%), Nassau (45.9%) and Duval (8.1%) counties; though they all had higher shares of "effective" teachers.

But Susan Voorhees, the district's director of accountability and special programs, warns that comparing school districts is not appropriate because the models used for evaluations vary widely across the state.

"I can't put much weight in the statewide data because I have reason to believe that no two models are the same," she said.

Though the new law requires that half of the evaluation come from student performance data, Ms. Voorhees said the state allowed districts to use many models for the remainder of the evaluation, including hybrid models.

Angela Callahan, president of the local teacher's union, was pleased by the large percentage of highly effective teachers here, she remains skeptical of the results, too.

"Baker County did very well," said Ms. Callahan. "But I think that as far as process goes, it's a work in progress... The way the scores are figured, there have been numerous discrepancies throughout the state. I can't say I trust these scores."

Under the new law, which drastically changes how teachers are evaluated and paid, 50 percent of annual teacher evaluations reflect their students' growth in FCAT scores over three years, including a "value-added" calculation.

A state formula predicts a students growth based on previous performance and measures their outcomes compared to the projection. Any growth above the projection is attributed to the teacher's added value.

The remaining 50 percent of the evaluation reflects teacher performance in the classroom as observed by principals or other administrators using state guidelines.

Baker County used a model from the state that incorporates 41 elements including establishing classroom routine, engaging students in "cognitively complex tasks" and demonstrating wit, intensity and enthusiasm.

Ms. Callahan said those teaching subjects for which there are no FCAT tests to measure student growth, like social studies, the student growth portion of their evaluations are based on

the average testing results for students at their school.

"Is that fair? Is that not fair? We have a long way to go on that," she said. "These scores don't mean much to us because it's a trial year and nobody really knew what they were doing, and no money was attached."

Pay for performance

The new evaluation system is linked to performance pay provisions in the Student Success Act for teachers deemed highly effective and effective.

Beginning July 1, 2014, existing teachers can enter the performance pay system to be eligible for raises tied to their evaluation results, which in turn are partly based on student performance.

However, those raises must exceed the highest raises available for teachers who choose to remain in the traditional, seniority-based "step" salary schedule. Under the Student Success Act, teachers hired after that date will go into the performance pay system and teachers who transfer to new districts will be placed in the system as well.

The new law also phases out teacher tenure.

All teachers hired after July 1, 2011 were placed on annual contracts subject to renewal or termination each year, while those already teaching on that date were able to keep so-called professional service contracts (tenure) not subject to such scrutiny.

Ms. Callahan said she fears the performance pay system could turn teachers against each other because they may be competing for a limited amount of money allocated for performance-based raises, which could in turn hinder cooperation among teachers.

She suggested teachers with good ideas for increasing student achievement may keep those strategies secret for fear there won't be enough cash to go around if fellow teachers are also successful at raising student per-

formance. "Once money's involved, it will change the scope of things," said Ms. Callahan, a teacher at West-side Elementary School. "We'll have to sit down and make sure everything is as fair as possible."

Non-teachers and administrators

Those working in education, but outside the classroom setting, are also subject to the new evaluation methods and performance-based compensation.

Half of their evaluations are drawn from three years of student performance on FCAT exams and half on job performance measures, like recruiting and retaining effective and highly effective teachers.

And similar to the evaluation results for teachers, an overwhelming portion of those employees in the Baker County school district — 93.9 percent — earned highly effective ratings.

Only two in the non-teacher category, or 6.1 percent, were rated effective and none were given the needs improvements rating.

Results from other counties in the region:

- Bradford County had 80% effective and 20% needs improvement;
 - Union County had 17.6% highly effective and 82.4% effective;
 - Clay County had 87.3% highly effective and 12.7% effective;
 - Nassau County had 73.2% highly effective and 26.8% effective;
 - St. Johns County had 38.1% highly effective and 60.6% effective; and
 - Duval County had 2.5% highly effective and 93.6% effective.
- Ms. Voorhees expects in the future the state will align how all district's evaluate the personnel, which would make district comparisons more valid.
- "We do feel eventually the state will take the lead on this," she said.

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3 percent of all houses in foreclosure

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The year 2012 has been a banner year for mortgage foreclosures in Baker County with roughly 3 percent of all housing units falling into foreclosure so far this year.

The latest monthly statistics from the foreclosure database firm RealtyTrac shows a similar trend throughout Florida with 29,612 foreclosure filings in November, or roughly one in every 300 housing units.

It marked the third consecutive month the state has led the nation in foreclosures.

Baker County, meanwhile, saw 21 foreclosures last month, all by banks or mortgage services firms, according to court records. That's about one in every 314 homes.

Baker County had 19 mortgage foreclosures in October, up from seven in September. August, however, had 28 filings, though three were filed by individuals, not financial institutions.

While that may not sound like many foreclosures, compared to totals in recent years, there was

an avalanche in 2012 with 193 filings through last week. That's about one in every 34 homes in the county, and 77 percent of all residences here are homeowners.

There were just 94 foreclosures filed last year, 167 in 2010 and 83 in 2009, shortly after the financial crisis rocked the nation in summer and fall of 2008.

The pace of foreclosure filings has remained relatively steady throughout 2012, beginning in and ending the year with roughly twice as many filings as the previous year.

When will it end? University of North Florida economist Paul Mason said unemployment and adjustable rate mortgages that were more common before the housing crisis hit have been driving foreclosures up this year.

"There were lots of mortgages with five-year anniversaries for rate increases that came due this year," said Mr. Mason. "In addition lots of houses are still underwater and many people are unemployed or under employed so they are having trouble meeting obligations."

RealtyTrac also reported that default notices, auctions and

bank repossessions in Florida increased 20 percent last month compared to the same month last year.

That's expected to keep home prices low for the next two years as banks and other lenders sell off an abundance of foreclosed properties. It takes the average foreclosure some two years to work its way through the court system, the firm estimates.

That process tends to be quicker in Baker County and elsewhere in the 8th Judicial Circuit, according to County Judge Joey Williams.

He said recently that the state's funding of a mortgage foreclosure backlog initiative has paid dividends in the circuit, which includes

Baker, Bradford, Union, Alachua, Gilchrist and Levy counties.

"Of all the 20 circuits, the 8th Circuit is I think twice as efficient as the next closest circuit," he told state legislators in early December while urging them to continue funding the program. "... It's shows the cooperation of the clerks office and the court system to move these things along. Because it's bad

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Baker County Chamber of Commerce
From the Board of Directors & Staff
www.bakerchamberfl.com

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At Year's End

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Wins shotgun from sportsmen

Pictured above are (left) Richard Williams, president of the Margareta Sportsman's Club, presenting a 12 gauge semi-automatic shotgun to raffle winner Dwight McCray of Sanderson. Mr. McCray won the \$460 value shotgun during a recent raffle that raised \$800 for club projects. The club was founded a year ago and is dedicated to teaching local youth the skills and personal rewards of outdoor living and outdoor sports. Members also instruct youth on firearms safety and responsible firearms use.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM PARKER JR.

In observance of the Christmas & New Year's holidays, the City of Macclenny will have the following solid waste collection schedule:
No solid waste pickup on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25th.
Entire City of Macclenny pickup on Wednesday, December 26th.
Regular pick up Monday, Thursday and Friday: December 24th, 27th, and 28th.
No solid waste pickup on New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1st.
Entire City of Macclenny pickup on Monday, January 2nd.
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The jack-knifed semi that struck two vehicles and a utility pole the rainy morning of December 12.

Wreck knocks out power

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A tractor trailer jackknifed on the rainy morning of December 12 in Macclenny, damaging two other vehicles and a utility pole, which knocked out power in the area as well.

The 2001 Freightliner's driver, Raymond Jones, 51, of Live Oak failed to maintain control of the vehicle while traveling south on South 6th Street and began to jackknife, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Jason Barry's report shows.

A 2012 Chevy Malibu was stopped and waiting to turn right on Barber Road about 11:10 am when the left rear of the semi struck the rear of the car.

The trooper's report shows that collision caused the Malibu to crash into the front end of a 2011 GMC Z71 pickup facing east on Barber Road at its intersection with S. 6th St.

The driver of the Malibu, Leah Moore, 32, of Macclenny, was injured in the accident and the vehicle had an estimated \$500 in damage.

Neither Steven Kelly, 56, of Macclenny, the driver in the pickup truck, nor Mr. Jones were injured; however, the pickup's damage was estimated at \$3000 and the semi's at \$5000.

Charges are pending further investigation, Trooper Barry said, though the crash is not believed to be alcohol related.

All parties were wearing seat belts.



Christmas shoeboxes for Africa

This group of volunteers from the First Christian Church in Macclenny spent December 5-7 in Atlanta volunteering for Franklin Graham's Operation Christian Child, an inter-denominational program to send shoe boxes of gifts to children in Ghana, Africa. Pictured in photo above (from left) are Pastor Doug Allen and his wife Annette, Pat Hathaway, Sharon Chanak, Sandra Bergeron and Pam Butcher. The operation is part of the Rev. Graham's Samaritan's Purse International Relief organization.

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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



PHOTO BY NAOMI ANDERSON

Buresh experiments with weather phenomenon at PreK-K Center

Meteorologist Mike Buresh of ActionNewsJax taught a hands on science lesson on electricity in the air and how it creates weather patterns on December 12 at the PreK-Kindergarten Center as the finale to a unit on weather. He also read the book *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* to the students. "He was an amazing speaker," said PreK-K coordinator Naomi Anderson. "Our unit of study was on weather. We have learned about the different types of weather, how to dress for the weather, how important math is when relating to weather, the science involved in weather and the people who study weather. Our students have been watching the weather report at home as part of our home connection activity as well." Mr. Buresh gave the school a "shout-out" on the news later that evening, she said.



PHOTO BY NAOMI ANDERSON

Middle school band ensemble jazzes up Macclenny restaurant

The Baker County Middle School band's jazz ensemble performed the evening of December 15 at Calendar's in downtown Macclenny. The group, led by band director Matt Jernigan, consists of advanced middle school band members who practice after school and perform at special events in the community. "Saturday night was like being on Bourbon Street in New Orleans during the Christmas Season," said Naomi Anderson, who attended the concert that included jazzy impressions of *Jingle Bell Rock* with a solo by Erica Flakowicz and Cameron Blow, both on saxophone; *Dashing Through the Snow*, *White Christmas*, *Hot Chocolate* from the film *Polar Express*, an excerpt from *The Grinch* movie and many more.

Beef workshop

The Bradford, Baker and Union County extension offices off a tri-county beef update on January 17 beginning from 6-7:30 pm at the New River Volunteer Fire Department in Bradford County.

Register by January 14th to reserve your place at this meeting. Topics presented will include information on agriculture damage assessment and a beef cattle production panel. Special guests include the University of Florida's Dr. Todd Thrift, extension beef cattle specialist and Dr. Jason Ferrell, a weed specialist.

Registration begins at 5:45 pm

and presentations start promptly at 6 o'clock.

This program will be sponsored to offset any costs, so please register by January 14. Call the extension office at 259-3520 for additional details.

Quit smoking classes in Jan.

Northeast Florida Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) is offering a free 6-week Quit Smoking Now program in Baker County.

Classes meet once a week and include a free workbook, educational tools (water bottles, stress balls, massagers, etc.) and four weeks of free nicotine patches, lozenges or gum as therapies to aid in smoking cessation.

Funding is from proceeds of the lawsuit against the tobacco industry. Call (904) 482-1089 now to register for the January 2013 class in Baker County.

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'Silver Sneakers' celebrate at YMCA

This group of regularly exercising senior citizens, who dub themselves the Silver Sneakers, gathered the morning of December 13 to celebrate Christmas with their trainer Samantha Pepitone (5th from right, front) at the Baker Family YMCA. The group meets every week, as it has for eight years, for regular exercising at the Y center on Lower St. in Macclenny. During warmer months, they take to the nearby county pool for water aerobics.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GAMBERS

Temp bridge opens over Green's Creek

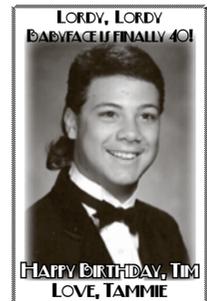
County Road 229 south of Sanderson reopened to through traffic the afternoon of December 20 with the opening of a temporary bridge over the South Prong of the St. Mary's River, also known as Green's Creek. The location is about 2 1/2 miles south of Interstate 10 or three miles south of Sanderson.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) hired a contractor Hal Jones Contractor, Inc., of Jacksonville to install a temporary metal bridge beginning October 1 on the east side of the existing bridge after it was

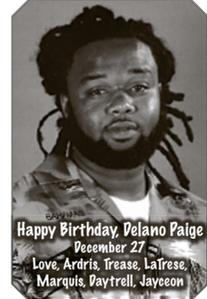
closed in June due to damage from Tropical Storm Debby. Minor work is continuing at the site. Motorists should use caution as they travel over the metal grating on the bridge. The old bridge will remain in place until a new contract to replace it begins in late 2013.

Hi-Q regional tournament set for Jan. 17

Baker County High School's varsity Hi-Q team will compete at the regional tournament on January 17. *The Press* previously reported the regional tournament would be held in December. On the varsity team are Sarah Harrell, Reagan McKendree, Megan Anderson, Chase Brannan, Forrest Elledge, Kailey Murphy and Kaitlyn Corder.



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Madison is sent packing with loss

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

It was more of the same for the Wildcat basketball team on December 18 in the packed BCHS gym as the Madison Cowboys came to town in hopes of knocking off the hot Wildcats and went away disappointed. BCHS ran out to an early lead and kept it on the way to a 62-48 win. The Cats went up 19-12 as Johnny Lamb opened the game with a strong seven-point showing in the first quarter and Charles Ruise Jr. nailed a pair of three pointers. The Cats cooled a little in the second period but still managed to keep the Cowboys at arm's length and take a 29-20 lead into the half.

BCHS built its lead in the third period from forward Brandon Lewis. Lewis has been steadily improving his offensive numbers and can be counted on for double figures in the scoring column, something that he hadn't shown early in the season.

The Cats protected their lead throughout the half and didn't let down as the game slipped away from the Cowboys.

Ruise led the way with 24 points. Cameron Mack had 11, Lamb and Lewis 10 and Gardner 7 points.

The Cats took a short break for Christmas before cranking up the Florida First Coast Classic December 27-29 in the BCHS gym.



At left, Charles Ruise drives to the hoop. At right, Johnathan Lamb before making a tough lay-up.



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Lady Cats 11-2

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

The Lady Wildcat basketball ran its record to 11-2 with a 41-31 victory over Bishop Snyder in the first round of the Bishop Snyder Christmas tournament on December 20. The Cats spoiled their hosts' tournament with a strong effort in a low scoring game.

The first quarter started off slow, with neither team able to get out of the blocks. The Cardinals led 8-6 before Delicia Washington heated up in the second period.

Washington, who led both teams in scoring with 24 points, exploded for 13 points as BCHS closed the gap and out scored Snyder 17-8 to take a 21-16 half-time lead.

The game slowed down some in the second half and neither team managed to hit from the free throw line with BCHS sinking only 37% from the charity stripe and Snyder doing an even worse job with a 25% success rate.

The Lady Cats did what they needed to win and move to the final round. Shanice Paige had 10 points for the girls.

The Cats ran into a buzz saw on Friday night in the championship game as the Ed White Commanders came out running and gunning and handed BCHS its third loss with a 47-35 defeat.

Ed White did what no other team this season has done — shut down Delicia Washington as an offensive threat. She was limited to just 6 points.

White came out shooting and quickly ran up a 21-0 lead. The Cats played them even for the remainder of the first half, but couldn't make up any ground.

Paige led BCHS with 10

points. Candace Clack had 6 points and Cierra Martino 5 for the Cats, who will be off during the holidays.



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

Candace Clack takes a shot.

Top 10 highlights in sports during 2012

BOB GERARD | SPORTS

There was a lot to choose from this year when picking the top 2012 sports highlights, but naturally I have to limit them so I'll go with the top 10. This list is in no particular order.

✓ The Wildcat weightlifting team placed second in the state to Blountstown High and Kendrick Singleton won the state title in the 188-pound class. For most programs this would be an achievement worthy of shouting from the rooftops, but Coach Scott McDonald and the Wildcats are used to taking home the top prize. After four years of number one state titles, number two was bittersweet.

✓ Singleton had a number of awards in 2012. He joined Thomas Sirk and CeCe Jefferson on the AP All State football team.

✓ Singleton and Sirk also signed Division 1 scholarships — Singleton going to North Carolina and Sirk to Duke.

✓ CeCe Jefferson was named to the All America team as a freshman defensive end. Jefferson had another fine season as a sophomore and recently caught the eye of Alabama head coach Nick Saban.

✓ Staying with football, Falon Lee was one of only six running backs to amass more than 2000 yards this season. Lee recently received a Division 1 offer from Miami — Ohio.

✓ The Wildcat football team won the district championship, defeating Bishop Kenny in the final game of the district season for the crown. Kenny returned the favor in the state playoffs, stopping the Wildcats' post-season run in the second round.

✓ The Lady Wildcat softball team won the district championship, defeating Paxon 6-1 and went on to win in the first round of the post-season play with a 6-0 shut out of Matanzas before losing to Ponte Vedra. During one seven-game run, the hot hitting Lady Cats outscored their opponents 87-7.

✓ Logan Raulerson and Chelsea Ruise received All-State FACA volleyball honors. Ruise signed a scholarship to play basketball at Edward Waters College where she plays guard.

✓ Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams have made an excellent start to the season. Coach Charles Ruise's boys team has turned around a disappointing season in 2011-12 with a 9-1 start to this year's campaign. First year Coach Chris Chisholm also has started strong with an 11-3 record heading into the second half of the season.

✓ The Wildcats added their first varsity sport in quite some time when they inaugurated a swim team this past season. Coach Pam Robinson's squad was very competitive in its inaugural meets.

✓ It was also a great year at BCMHS. Delicia Washington, now the top scorer for the Wildcat girls' basketball team, led the Bobcats to a conference championship. The B-Cat softball team secured a conference title of their own and the Bobcats' football team under first-year Coach Rock Rhoden was the runner-up in its conference.

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To A New Year!



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

Delicia Washington with a lay-up.

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BUNCH

CAULIFLOWER

D. L. Lee Smoked

PORK CHOPS
\$2.99 lb.

 **79¢**
EACH

CUCUMBER