



## Kenny erases Cat's five-run lead to win district title

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## Lady Cats advance after win v. Matanzas

See page 13



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MAY 2, 2013 THURSDAY

# THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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## ICE and marshal count at jail drops

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The sharp drop in federal detainees at the county jail in recent months has made some county commissioners more concerned than others, but most of them say there's little they can do about it anyway.

Between January and March, the average population of inmates housed there dropped by some 65 prisoners.

That means the Baker Correctional Development Corporation (BCDC) — which owes more than \$40 million to the bondholders who funded the facility's construction and startup — is out about half-a-million dollars it otherwise could've earned in housing fees.

The share of the jail's population coming from Baker County grew by some 19 prisoners between January and March, or about 17 percent. That growth costs the Baker County Commission about \$145,000.

But what's been driving the loss in revenue for BCDC is the decline in detainees from Immigration and Customs and Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Marshals Service and the Bureau of Prisons. During the three-month period, ICE's average daily population shrunk by 26 percent to 183.16 in March, the Marshal's by 29 percent to 38.78 and the Bureau of Prisons by 80 percent to 1.45.

BCDC collects nearly \$85 per inmate per day from local and federal agencies for housing detainees.

Commissioner Adam Giddens said he was concerned by the decline in federal prisoners, "but this falls under the BCDC and the sheriff. I don't think the commission has any say or any ability to say how many federal inmates can or cannot be in the facility."

The sheriff's office manages the county jail and its finance chief Brian Bishop says he's confident the drop in federal prisoners is temporary.

"The Marshal's population has always been cyclical, which is the nature of their business, much like a county jail, so we

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## City staff favors Mark Bryant to fill vacant commission post

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Above cancer survivors walk the track at Baker County Middle School to begin Relay For Life on April 26. Below are some of the luminaries placed around the track later that evening.

PHOTOS BY JON FLETCHER

## Cancer 'relay' raises \$34,000

JOEL ADDINGTON | NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Eight years ago Bo Thomas beat cancer. Today he still battles the effects caused by nine months of radiation treatment, which vanquished the disease but damaged his body, too. "Chemo's even worse," said Mr. Thomas, a Macclenny native residing in Raiford.

"Even if you get over the cancer, the treatment causes a lot of other health problems. I've had stomach surgery twice ... You pretty much have to deal with it the rest of your life," he said.

Mr. Thomas is a guitarist and singer with Whiskey Moon String Band, which performed 15 songs during an hour-long set at last weekend's 2013 Relay For Life at the middle school's track.

"I've been to a few relays before for personal support, but this was the first time for the band," he said. "We would do it again in a heartbeat."

The event celebrates cancer survivors like Mr. Thomas and re-

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Above at left are (l-r) Jeff Thomas, Les Thornton, Bo Thomas and Chad Thrift of Whiskey Moon String Band; and at right, Mia Fish with her lap beads. She walked more than 35 miles.

PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON AND JON FLETCHER



## Sanderson man gets 13 years for molestation

A Sanderson man was sentenced on April 23 to 13 years in prison after he pleaded no contest to molesting a 10-year-old girl.

George Tyre Beasley, 66, gets credit for 182 days in county jail since his arrest in October and will be on probation with sex offender restrictions following release from prison.

It was one of two long-term sentences handed down that day by Judge Mark

Moseley of Gainesville.

Court records indicate Mr. Beasley's victim complained to her mother on October 24 that he had improperly touched her numerous times. In an interview the following day with a sheriff's investigator, the defendant initially blamed his excessive alcohol use and claimed he didn't remember the latest incident.

He then described numerous other times that he could have touched the girl,

who he described as affectionate. He was arrested following the interview.

In the second case, Judge Moseley ordered a 10-year mandatory prison term for Anthony Simmons, 40, of Sanderson for a pair of burglaries last October during which he stole firearms.

Mr. Simmons pleaded no contest to armed burglary, grand theft and seven counts of grand theft of firearms, along with felony criminal mischief.

He took the majority of the guns from the home of Ray Harvey on October 23, and also broke into the Ocean Pond residence of Ray Riverbark of Jacksonville earlier that month. He stole a television and shotgun.

He was arrested after attempting to break into another north Sanderson residence and traced to his father's home via ATV tracks.

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#### ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Are you in favor of the City of Macclenny's plans to replace the downtown fire station with a new one?

70% Yes

28% No

2% Undecided

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# COMMENT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## CONTACT US

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## There's always some wacky legislation

Our leaders in Tallahassee are wrapping up their annual session on schedule this year, a departure from recent sessions during which squabbles over budget-cutting or redistricting or other issues inevitably pushed their deliberations past the 60-day window prescribed in state law.

### On Point In Print

Joel Addington

Many legislators, lobbyists and state officials are likely pretty happy this year given how smooth the session has been. The biggest fights have been over issues most Floridians have little stake in, like whether to accept \$50 billion from the federal government to expand health insurance to the poor.

The senate's plan would cover about a million more people with the federal funding while the house's plan rejects federal money and use some \$237 million in state money to cover about 115,000 more people.

While that has serious implications for hospitals and low-income folks, two-thirds of adults in Florida have health insurance already.

Most of the other fights have been about issues important to an even smaller groups, like teachers or colleges or industry groups. So, most of the legislation passed, save the \$74.5 billion state budget finalized this week, will not change your life in any significant way.

The budget (which is up \$4 billion from last year thanks to higher tax receipts) does include provisions for state employee and teacher raises, which are important to many locally.

But absent a looming crisis, budget-related or otherwise, lawmakers tend to fill the vacuum with wacky, politically-charged or simply ridiculous proposals, often aimed at appeasing a very small segment of constituents.

Exhibit A: One legislator sponsored a bill banning Islamic law from being recognized by Florida courts. The proposed law reportedly references all foreign nations' laws, but proponents often cited Islamic laws that subjugate women.

This is a solution in search of a problem. This is America. American laws apply, including those against beating your spouse.

Exhibit B: Other lawmakers pushed legislation to severely weaken the Florida High School Athletic Association and its restrictions on student athletes switching schools, which would essentially make prep sports more like the pros with a lot of free agency-like activity.

Would it hurt competition? Probably. But how competitive

are high school sports today? Don't the same schools seem to stay at the top year after year? Exhibit C: Both chambers agreed to repeal a law passed five years ago requiring that ethanol be added to gasoline sold in Florida.

It was silly to pass the law in the first place because there's a federal law mandating the same thing. So gasoline will still contain ethanol, even if the governor signs the repeal legislation. It's just pointless in terms of making any real change for Floridians.

My favorite, however, is exhibit D (for drunkards). This proposed law would allow craft spirit distillers to sell their products at their distillery with a few catches — there's a two-bottle limit and you can't enjoy them until you leave the premises.

The bill, which didn't have the two-bottle limit and off-site consumption provisions when originally drafted, also awaits the governor's approval. It's awfully unfair that the state shields spirit retailers from competition with spirit makers, so I applaud the bill's original intent, i.e. knocking down this barrier to competition.

## A perfect day for a wedding Saturday

### MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

I've been doing this column since 1985, mere months before our daughter Sara Beth was born. Those of you who have been around here that long have read about my family growing up.

You've read about good times and bad, about funny stuff and not so funny stuff and come to form a sense of who we are.

This week has been a major milestone in our family. Sara Beth married to Aaron Summers.

Like every Dad I had mixed emotions about it. My daughter and I are very close. Most of you fathers with daughters know they are very much "daddy's girl," and have you wrapped around their little finger.

She still calls me Daddy, unlike the boys who call me Dad. It's definitely a bittersweet moment for me and it was very surreal to walk her down the aisle.

Surreal is a good word to describe a wedding, at least from the parents' side of things. You work so hard for so long and then, just like that, it's over.

Sara Beth and wife Kelley have been working for months on the wedding, planning, re-planning and spraying everything that didn't move silver or white. I didn't move fast enough and have both silver and white on me.

When you have an outdoor wedding, two weeks before the big event you become a meteorologist. Every spare moment you check all the low pressure areas, the millibars, the cold fronts, the doldrums and the thermal drifts to see what kind of prediction there is for that special moment.

Our prediction for Miltondale at 5 pm on Saturday — perfect. Mid-seventies, light breeze, high clouds. One day later and there's rain for a week. One day earlier and it's hot and muggy. But on Saturday the weather gods smiled on Miltondale.

Ah, Miltondale. It is a beautiful setting with 300-year-old oaks, big friendly dogs and rolling green lawns. Sara Beth and her Mama hung chandeliers in the trees and she got married in a natural arch of one of the branches. It was very beautiful.

Chris and Shelly Neri generously offered their yard for the wedding and you couldn't have had a lovelier spot. Aaron's mom Barbara described it as "a cathedral," and it is. It has been the Milton homestead for generations and many of them still live there. They couldn't have been more gracious as truckloads of people and equipment descended on their neighborhood.

We had a tent on the hill for the reception. Saturday morning the wedding elves descended on the tent and started poofing and fruffing. I stayed out of the way. My job was to do what I was told. I did what I was told.

The day of the service, the guests arrived and the procession began. I waited with my daughter and took her arm as we walked down the aisle. I watched my beautiful daughter start a new life with a man who obviously loved her. They were enjoying the moment so much that the joy was infectious.

A perfect day for a wedding.



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## FACEBOOK FANS

'What you had to say ...'

### New fire station planned downtown

The City of Macclenny recently announced its plans to seek funding for a new fire station to replace the existing station downtown. We asked readers to take our online poll on the issue (see page 1 for results) and comment, too. Here's a look at the responses:

Yo Ahrens: Definitely deserve a new one.

Shawna McDonald Sapp: Definitely a huge need for a new station! Anyone who disagrees should take a tour!

Joshua Forth: What's wrong with the old one? And do we really need a new one?

Sarah Elizabeth Williams: Well, the public restrooms will certainly be nice at events like the Christmas parade.

We followed up to ask about the proposed location of the new station downtown, at the existing site. Would it be better elsewhere? Here's a look at some of the reactions:

Buck Wright: Wherever the new station goes, it needs to be a centralized location for the best response times to any emergency. What good would further downtown development be without adequate fire coverage? It has been sufficient where it is for 35-plus years, so why try to fix something that apparently isn't broke?

Chris White Harvin: No, it shouldn't move. (A) The city already owns the lot it currently resides on. If they build at a different location then the city will have to purchase the land which is not cheap. (B) The construction of a new fire station is very much necessary, and fortunately, the majority of cost will come from grant money at very little expense to the taxpayers of Macclenny.

Michelle Johns: I like the fire station downtown! It has so much char-

acter!

Jerome Reimer Jr.: What are they going to develop? Another mom and pop restaurant or how about another pizza joint or maybe another consignment shop? Save the money and leave it right where it is!

James Clay Rhoden: There is no need to move the location. For one, there isn't enough development in Baker County that will make it a benefit to leave an empty lot downtown that will stand out like a sore thumb! And as far as it goes, what city of any quality doesn't have a downtown fire station?

David Church: If it's not broke, why fix it?

Malcolm Starling: It's not broken, just update it.

James Clay Rhoden: The best location that benefits taxpayers is on the property already owned by the city and that's exactly where it is now! It has worked for over 30 years. It will work for another 30 years!

Jeri Wilfong Hulett: Replace. There is no reason for more downtown space for commerce when so many spaces are empty already.

Nancy Storch Oliver: Leave it where it is but make sure it is built in good taste and it's an asset to the downtown, not a sore thumb.

Adam Barnes: I agree that we shouldn't move the station. But if we do, we should move it to the undeveloped location of woods across from Aardvark. It would make it more central.

**Country legend George Jones ...**

Following the death last week of George Jones, we asked our Facebook faithful to sound off about their favorite tunes by the country music icon.

Clayton Yarbrough: "He Stopped Loving Her Today," and it's also one of my favorites to sing. He along with

Conway Twitty were my two all-time favorites and my music heroes. I'm a soft hearted old country boy, so yes I cried this morning as I drove down US 90 when I heard the news on the radio.

Melody Collett: All of his songs. Jana Ash: The King is gone! Yabba Dabba Doo!

Barry Melton: The Grand Tour. Amanda Heppner: I Don't Need No Rocking Chair.

Darlene Yarbrough Harris: A Good Year For The Roses! There will never be another to fill those shoes. Truly a legend.

Barry Melton: The King is Gone (And So Are You).

NormaJean AndJoe: Someday my day will come. He stopped loving her today. White Lightning. Who's gonna fill their shoes ... I could go on, and on, and on. I grew up listening to him, and 42 years later, I still listen! RIP Possum.

Holly Burks Dillard: So many greats to choose from. Either He Stopped Loving Her Today, or White Lightning!

Wendy Martin: Tennessee Whiskey and He Stopped Loving Her Today.

John Wiest: Still Doing Time in a Honky Tonk Prison.

Rebecca Combs: Choices!

Janice Rogers: Still Doing Time is pretty good!

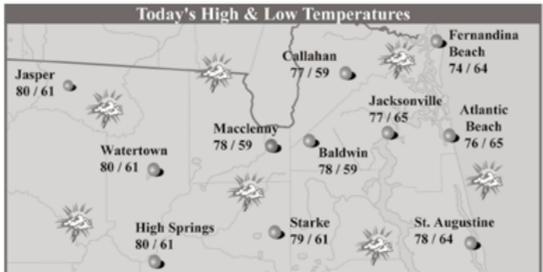
Janice Rogers: Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes!

Marilyn Penrod: Choices. I had the pleasure of playing George's music on my station for many years. My favorite memory was one time Nancy made me angry and I refused to promote his concerts anymore. He offered me a limo for myself and five of my friends to go to any concert of our choosing and then sent me his itinerary for the next two years. A legend in his time. Fond memories of the man and his music.

Join the conversation by searching for The Baker County Press on Facebook and liking our page. We post breaking news, links to valuable information and discussion topics for our readers.

The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast table with columns for Day, High, Low, and weather conditions from Thursday to Wednesday.



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

Sun/Moon Chart This Week table showing sunrise and sunset times for the week of May 2, 2013.

St. Mary's River Levels and Hunting/Fishing Times tables with sub-tables for Now/Change, Peak Times, and Weather History.



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Bryant recommended By city administrator for vacancy

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR reporter@bakercountypress.com This week Mark Bryant of Macclenny was recommended to fill the city commission seat vacated by Phil Rhoden, who took over as city manager this month following seven years on the board.



Mark Bryant

Mr. Bryant, a Sanderson native and a manager at Florida Blue (formerly Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida), has served as chairman on the city's Zoning Adjustment Board for the last two years. He reported on local government for The Baker County Press in the 1990s and has volunteered with various civic organizations. "We have found him knowledgeable, consistent in his decision making and eager to learn more," reads an April 30 memo to city commissioners from Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough. "He has been an outstanding leader to the zoning board. We have been impressed with his knowledge, fairness, grasp of city policy and the ability to solve problems."

Attempt to enter vehicle

Deputies arrested a St. George, GA man the evening of April 23 after he was observed by a witness attempting to break into a car in the parking lot of Walmart in Macclenny.

Christopher Fennell, 19, matched the description given by the witness who called police after she saw the suspect strike the passenger window of a Hyundai with a car jack handle. He walked off when the window did not shatter and went to the nearby Starbucks parking lot where he joined two others in a red pickup truck.

Deputy Marc Heath said he located the pickup and Mr. Fennell denied the burglary attempt. Both of the truck's other occupants, Michael Knowles, 20, and Justin Daniels, 23, of the same St. George address, gave incriminating statements suggesting that the suspect left them while at the Murphy Oil station and acted nervous when he joined back up with them, saying he saw a purse in the vehicle and was going to steal it.

He was booked at county jail for attempted burglary, a felony, plus misdemeanor criminal mischief and loitering. The previous day just before noon, two white male suspects made off with a \$700 computer and three DVDs from Walmart. A store security worker contacted the sheriff's department the following day after reviewing surveillance tape that showed the suspects, accompanied by a white female, enter the store about 11:45 and initially place a television and computer in a cart before replacing them. One of the suspects, wearing a green jacket and black "Batman" shirt, stuffed the DVDs in his jacket and the two left the store, setting off a security alarm. They returned minutes later

and, while the female suspect waited for them outside in a dark sedan, the same male suspect picked up the computer and they again exited.

Burglaries occur while owners away

The sheriff's department is looking into a trio of recent home burglaries that occurred while the owners were away. Donald Burnsed said he was informed on April 26 by a person who watches his property on a road named after him in Baxter that an ATV in the garage was missing. On further inspection Mr. Burnsed found that two televisions and seven firearms were stolen from the interior.

He told Deputy Chris Walker the last time he checked on the property was April 22. Another ATV was stored in the garage and was not taken, but a chain saw, clothing, radio and drill were missing. Mr. Burnsed placed the value of property absent the 2005 Suzuki at \$6650. Entry was likely through unlocked doors. In other reports: Barbara Williams called police on April 24 when she realized that coins and jewelry were missing from her residence off CR 122 north of Sanderson. She told Deputy Rodney Driggers she returned on April 6 after an absence of seven months and initially suspected that coins worth over \$500 were missing, and later that rings, necklaces and other jewelry valued around \$1500 were missing as well. Several employees who work on the property suggested that two males and a female implicated in neighborhood thefts may be responsible. Entry was likely through a rear door.

CIRCUIT COURT

Drug dealer sentenced 50 months for undercover sales

A circuit judge sent a Macclenny woman to prison for 50 months after she pleaded no contest on April 23 to twin counts of selling hydrocodone to an undercover agent at her residence.

Salina King, 36, must serve a minimum of three years and Judge Mark Moseley ordered her to pay a \$50,000 fine due to the amount of narcotics involved, plus a \$290 investigative cost. Ms. King, who gets credit for 76 days in county jail since her arrest in November, 2012, has a criminal record that includes sale of cocaine, soliciting for prostitution and theft.

In other sentences that day, a convicted felon arrested in October, 2012 for selling crack cocaine to a buyer working for the sheriff's department was sentenced to three years in prison.

Leonard Lee, 30, of Macclenny entered a no contest plea to a reduced charge of selling a controlled substance and possession of coke with intent to sell. He originally was charged with sale near a school, a more serious felony.

Judge Moseley also ordered Mr. Lee to pay a \$300 investigative cost and gave him credit for 147 days in jail since his arrest. He has a criminal record that includes drug sales, theft and discharging a firearm in public.

Other cases: Judge Moseley revoked probation given earlier to Nicholas Boatwright for past cases of fraud, theft and trafficking in stolen property and ordered him to prison for two years. Stacy Hott of Glen St. Mary was given a 140-day jail sentence followed by six months on probation after pleading no contest to twin counts of credit card fraud and a single count of credit card theft.

The judge withheld adjudication of guilt in the first two cases involving cards belonging to her aunt,

Tentative ID on man scrapping weld leads

Police have the identity of a Virginia man who may have sold 200 feet of welding leads at an east Macclenny scrap yard on April 26, property stolen earlier from a work truck off O.C. Home Rd. in the north county.

Jeffrey Conner called police that morning when his father noticed the copper leads had been taken from a work truck parked outside his residence in a fenced yard. Deputy Chris Walker said his K-9 Blitz trailed a scent from the scene to nearby God's Acre Lane, and two suspects there did not appear to be involved.

Shortly after, an employee of Scrapy Pappy's on US 90 notified police that a male who presented an ID with the name of Douglas Ratcliffe Jr. of Richmond, VA sold welding leads that the victim later identified as his. He was driving a brown Jeep Cherokee with a license plate stolen earlier in Duval County.

The welding leads with a value of \$1500 were returned to the owner. In other reports, a 2008 Toyota pickup belonging to a Sanderson man was found burning on CR 229 about two miles south of the Baker-Union county line late on April 22.

Robert McComb told Deputy Earl Lord he parked the vehicle at his residence on 229 about 6:15 and was unaware it was taken from his property.

Andrew Johnson called police when he discovered on April 23 that copper wiring was stripped from a boat stored on his property off Myrtis Barton Lane near Macclenny.

The boat is the property of Michael Brown of Macclenny and Mr. Johnson told Deputy Matt Riegel the copper was worth in excess of \$300. He named a suspect.

Five tires on three vehicles parked off North Lowder were slashed during the night on April 29. Kyle Cushmanberry told Deputy Chad Montean two tires on his Cadillac, two on a Chevrolet owned by his girlfriend Haley Thorn and one on a Pontiac belonging to neighbor Jessica Hagan were cut.

They had a combined value of \$480 and Mr. Cushmanberry named a suspect.

Felony resisting charge after resisting two officers

A Glen St. Mary woman faces two felony counts for violently resisting county deputies taking her into custody at the home of her mother the morning of April 25.

Virginia Burnham, 56, earlier went to the sheriff's department complaining that daughter Shannon Norman, 41, had become increasingly violent and was not taking medication prescribed to control her behavior. She described to Deputy Kody Crews an earlier attack during which she claimed her daughter clawed her unprovoked.

The officer and Sgt. Bill Stirling interviewed Mrs. Norman at her mother's residence on Geigey St. in Glen and determined she was not a candidate for Baker Act custody, instead suggesting she live elsewhere.

When she refused, the officers attempted to restrain her, and Deputy Crews said she swung at Sgt. Stirling then attempted to kick him when they took her to the ground. She also allegedly kicked and scratched Deputy Crews.

Mrs. Norman was also named in a complaint for domestic battery on her mother. In other domestic incidents, a 14-year-old girl was arrested in north Macclenny about midday on April 27 following a confrontation with her parents at their Ohio St. residence.

The girl's father, 38, called police after she allegedly tackled her mother and sent her into a screen door during an argument. Deputy John Minkel said he found the girl walking north on West Boulevard minutes later and she attempted to run from him.

The parents told police the girl was yelling at her step-sisters about 11 and she allegedly struck at her father when he attempted to bring her to the front of their residence. The mother said the suspect also threw a book at her before tackling her.

The teen was charged with domestic battery. A criminal complaint for the same charge was filed against Jaleed Ruise, 33, of Macclenny after he went to the residence of estranged girlfriend Vondalen Jackson, 30, early on April 27.

Ms. Jackson told Deputy Marc Heath the accused came to her door intoxicated about 3:30 and became violent, pulling her hair and biting her on the face, when she ordered him to leave.

He reportedly left the area on a bicycle and police were not able to locate him.

Foils plan to bring contraband to jail

Two female inmates at the Baker County jail were arrested on April 24 for allegedly arranging to have prescription pills, marijuana and tobacco smuggled into the facility by two male acquaintances.

Sheriff's investigator Steve Harvey said he was tipped off to the plan where a female trusty was to collect the items from a bathroom in the lobby of the jail visitation center.

Autumn Steiger, 21, of Macclenny and Lindsey Townsend, 21, of Glen St. Mary were interviewed separately about the arrangement, and Ms. Townsend said she understood the plan was for tobacco only.

They identified the couriers as Garrett Simmons, 27, and Benjamin Cline, 24, both of Macclenny. Investigator Harvey said the items were seized before they could be handed over to the inmates.

Ms. Townsend and Ms. Steiger are charged with criminal conspiracy and introducing contraband, both felonies. In another incident at county jail, criminal complaints for battery were filed on April 24 against inmates Leonard Lee Jr., 30, of

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## 2nd graders visit with fire and rescue

Glen St. Mary-based firefighter Paula Nedeau dons the "bunker gear" worn at fire and accident scenes by members of her station during one of the visits as Westside Elementary second graders took walking class trips Monday and Tuesday of this week to Station 50 in Glen and nearby Celebration Park where fire trucks and a rescue unit were parked. Ms. Nedeau, incidentally, is a third-generation firefighter after her father and grandfather who served with stations in Jacksonville. The visits were scheduled as part of field trips to nearby public agencies including the Glen post office.

# Unveils new health plan

## Addressing poor stats locally

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Earlier this month the Baker County Health Department unveiled the result of its three-year effort to complete a comprehensive plan for improving the health of the community by 2020.

It's built around three priorities — preventing chronic diseases, protecting people and the environment and promoting good health and prosperity.

The plan serves as a guide for both Baker County's health professionals and the community at large, namely residents and employers, giving them all clear goals, strategies to meet the goals and benchmarks to track the community's success in doing so.

The health department recreates the plan every three to five years and has done so since 1999.

"It's a pretty comprehensive plan," said Kerry Dunlavy, the health department's top administrator, when presenting it at the April 8 Health Baker, Inc. board of directors meeting.

Healthy Baker is a nonprofit coalition of local health providers and other government and business related entities trying to improve the health of the county's residents. Ms. Dunlavy sits on the board.

"This plan is designed to address weaknesses and build upon strengths ... and provide a clear course of direction for the future of Baker County's health," she said.

The plan targets preventing the most common chronic diseases in Baker County and helping those already affected by them. They include diabetes, heart disease, lower respiratory disease, high blood pressure, stroke and cancer.

"These indicators are very high in our community," said Ms. Dunlavy.

To do so, the plan calls for more education and outreach on fitness and nutrition, increasing access to healthcare, including mental health and substance abuse services, and continuation of the smoking cessation program.

Protecting people and places from harm is a bit trickier, but efforts should focus on emergency preparedness, monitoring the environment for compliance with existing contamination limits, establish-

# Four license suspensions

The driver of a van stopped on CR 229 north of Sanderson the afternoon of April 24 had a license with four prior suspensions and was wanted in Baker County for burglary.

Deputy Katy Crews said she stopped a Dodge van driven by Phillip Pendleton, 25, of Macclenny about 5 pm near the intersection with CR 124 after a report of a carless driver in the area.

A computer check confirmed both the suspensions for failure to pay traffic fines, along with the warrant. Deputy Crews also ticketed passenger Nathan Morris, 30, of Sanderson for having an open container of alcohol in the van.

Mr. Pendleton claimed he took the wheel from Mr. Morris earlier because he was driving recklessly and intoxicated.

In other arrests for license violations, Ciara Stokes, 26, of Sanderson was found to be driving with six suspensions. Deputy Johnny Hodges stopped her in a southbound 1991 Chevrolet pickup on CR 127 the afternoon

of April 24 after noting the vehicle had an expired tag and faulty brake light.

Mark Bunkley, 34, of Bryceville was arrested the same afternoon by Deputy Robert Simpkins on multiple charges after his 1997 Honda was stopped on South 6th in Macclenny for having an altered decal on the license plate.

His license had four prior suspensions, and Mr. Bunkley was ticketed for the decal violation, having the wrong tag on the vehicle and driving an unregistered vehicle.

Deputy Simpkins arrested James Green, 33, of Macclenny

ing more green spaces, monitoring communicable diseases and preventing their spread, and reducing accidental injuries with more education about safety and security.

The plan, which is intended to guide the community through 2020, also lays out specific, measurable outcomes.

In the chronic disease area, for instance, there's lowering the diabetes death rate by 50 percent, increasing the percentage of women over 40 who receive mammograms by 14.2 percent and decreasing high cholesterol among adults by 63 percent.

Under protecting people and places, the plan aims to decrease chlamydia (bacterial-related diseases) 8 percent and unintentional injury by 30.5 percent. A benchmark for increasing green spaces and improving water quality and access to recreation activities has not been established yet.

To measure progress in promoting healthy lifestyles, the plan looks for a 5 percent drop in teen tobacco use, a 48 percent reduction in teen births and a 10 percent enrollment increase in Medicaid and Medicare, among other goals.

Ms. Dunlavy said the targets correspond to state averages in the respective areas. "We focus on those issues that are above the state and national average," she said. "The goal is determined by state average benchmarks, which we strive to be equal to or better."

The plan also features direction for various segments of the community like the health department itself, employers, government agencies and local organizations.

Specifically, employers are urged to understand the most critical health issues facing the community and use the plan to help make their place of business a healthy place to work while educating employees about the link between health and productivity.

Residents of all stripes, meanwhile, should understand the critical issues identified by the plan and use them to begin conversations among neighbors, family and friends about the issues most important to them.

Citizens are also asked to volunteer their time, money or expertise for any health-related event or activity.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO: 02-2013-CA-0081

**PATRICIA L. FISH**, as Trustee of the BENJAMIN F. FISH REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, AND PATRICIA L. FISH, as Trustee of the PATRICIA L. FISH REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, Plaintiffs,

vs.

**LOTTIE J. CHANCEY, IRA DAN WALL**, AND SARAH A. WALL, his wife, and all Unknown Tenants, et al., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: IRA DAN WALL, SARAH A. WALL, Last known address: 11724 Dollie Lane Sanderson, Florida 32087

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Verified Mortgage Foreclosure Complaint has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., PA, Attorney whose address is 445 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063; (904) 259-3155, within thirty (30) days after the first day of May, 2013, and to file the original with the Clerk of this Court before service on FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., PA, Attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on this 9th day of April, 2013.

TA "AL" FRASER  
CLERK OF COURT  
By: Tabitha Wilson  
Deputy Clerk

Frank E. Maloney, Jr., PA, Attorney for Plaintiff, 445 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063  
411-5292

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO: 02-2012-CA-000126

**SUNTRUST MORTGAGE, INC.**, Plaintiff,

vs.

**HUGH BENTLEY RHODEN, et al.**, (Defendants).

**NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated February 26, 2013 and entered in Case No. 02-2012-CA-000126 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida wherein SUNTRUST MORTGAGE, INC. is the Plaintiff and HUGH BENTLEY RHODEN, THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF HUGH BENTLEY RHODEN, KAYLA ALJDA HARBELL RHODEN, JULIE M. RHODEN AKA JULIE BENTLEY RHODEN, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will file to the highest and best bidder for cash at the FRONT DOOR OF THE BAKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located on the 6th day of June, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

A PART OF NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF OWENS ACRES, UNIT 2, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 34, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY, THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 49 SECONDS EAST AND ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID OWENS ACRES, UNIT 2, 406.71 FEET, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST, 249.96 FEET, THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 49 SECONDS WEST, 68.84 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVE IN THE RIGHT HAND CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 128.47 FEET AND BEING CONVEX TO THE SOUTHWEST, THENCE ALONG AND AROUND SAID CURVE A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 46 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST, 86.44 FEET TO THE POINT OF A REVERSE CURVE TO THE LEFT, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 137.24 FEET AND BEING CONVEX TO THE NORTHWEST, THENCE ALONG AND AROUND SAID CURVE A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 33 DEGREES 50 MINUTES EAST, 147.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION, THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREES 20 MINUTES EAST, 94.0 FEET TO A POINT IN THE NORTH LINE OF THE FOREMENTIONED NORTH 1/2 OF NORTHWEST 1/4, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST, AND ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 82.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A/K/A 10745 HILLSIDE DRIVE, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

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

WITNESS MY HAND and seal of this Court on April 24, 2013.

AL FRASER  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: Tabitha Wilson  
Deputy Clerk

Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, PL  
P.O. Box 25018  
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018

\*\*See Americans 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: Ms. Jan Phillips  
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Alachua County Family/Civil Courthouse  
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**NOTICE OF ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT DECISION(S)**

The District has granted permit(s) for the following applications:  
E I du Pont De Nemours and Co Inc, P O Box 753, Starke, FL 32091, application #50079.

The District authorizes, as limited by the attached conditions, the use of 0.479 million gallons per day of groundwater for commercial/industrial and household uses, and the use of surface water from a wholly owned mining pit and associated stormwater basins for recreation and recirculation to facilitate the mining of heavy minerals. The withdrawals used by this proposed project will consist of Groundwater from FAS-Upper 3, Lower Floridan Aquifer via 2 active wells; Groundwater from Intermediate Aquifer or Confining Unit via 3 active wells in Baker County, located in Section 1, Township 3 South, Range 22 East, known as DuPont Maxville Mine.

If you wish to receive a copy of a Technical Staff Report (TSR) that provides the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) staff's analysis on the above-listed compliance reports) and associated permits, please submit your request to: Director, Bureau of Regulatory Support, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429. Once a TSR becomes available, you may also receive it by going to the Permitting section of the District's website at <http://floridawater.com/permitting/index.html>. To obtain information on how to find and view a TSR, visit <https://permitting.sjrwmd.com/permitting.html>, and then follow the directions provided under "How to find a Technical Staff Report (TSR) or other application file documents."

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the District. Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed with the District by delivery at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, P. O. Box 1429, Palatka Florida 32178-1429 (4049 Road St., Palatka, FL 32177) or by e-mail with the District Clerk at [clerk@sjrwmd.com](mailto:clerk@sjrwmd.com), within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Palatka, Florida during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day. A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(9)(4) and 120.56(9)(2) (c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. The District's acceptance of petitions filed by e-mail is subject to certain conditions set forth in the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (issued pursuant to Rule 28-101.001, F.A.C.), which is available for viewing at [floridawater.com](http://floridawater.com). The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation may be available if you meet the conditions stated in the full notice of Rights (see last paragraph).

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, F.S., Chapter 28-106, F.A.C., and Rule 40C-1.1007, F.A.C. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28106.111, F.A.C.).

If you wish to do so, please visit <http://floridawater.com/nor/dec/> to read the complete Notice of Rights to determine any legal rights you may have concerning the District's decision(s) on the compliance report(s) described above. You can also request the Notice of Rights by contacting the Director, Bureau of Regulatory Support, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178, tele. no. (386) 323-4268.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO. 02-2011-CA-0068

TO BANK, N.A., as successor by merger with Carolina First Bank, as successor by merger with Mercantile Bank, as successor by merger with CNG National Bank,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ANTONIO MITCHELL, et al., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 20, 2013 entered in Civil Case No. 02-2011-CA-0068 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein TO BANK, N.A. is Plaintiff and ANTONIO MITCHELL, et al., are Defendants.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL, at 11:00 o'clock a.m. on the 2nd day of July, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Lot 1 and 2, Block 30, TOWN OF GLEN ST. MARY, FLORIDA, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 1, of the Public Records of Baker County, Florida.

Street address: 9781 Lincoln Avenue, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

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

DATED this 26th day of April, 2013.

AL FRASER  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Tabitha Wilson  
Deputy Clerk

Daniel S. Mandel, Esq.  
DANIEL S. MANDEL, P.A.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1900 N.W. Corporate Blvd., Ste. 305W  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
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# Experts dissect the 2012 election

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Members of the local Republican Party recently hosted two area political professionals in an attempt to deconstruct the 2012 presidential election and ascertain where Mitt Romney went wrong.

According to GOP strategist John Libby of the Jacksonville firm American Public Dialogue, it was partly the use of political consultants like himself, who were disconnected from one another and more concerned with their own wallets than helping to run an effective and successful campaign.

Moreover, he told the group of about 20 party members gathered at Firehouse Subs in Macclenny the evening of April 16, the consultants working for the Romney campaign and conservative groups outside the campaign were using, to their detriment, largely traditional methods of reaching voters like direct mail and television ads.

He recalled seeing an Obama ad during a rerun of the popular animated sitcom *The Simpsons* and wondering why the president's campaign would buy air time there. Then it hit him. He said the campaign was targeting a young, likely pot-smoking, demographic.

He noted other targeted ads like those on fantasy football websites and social media. One click, Mr. Libby said, and the Obama campaign had an Internet address that could be used to track voters online.

The old approaches may have worked for Republicans in the past, but once stacked up against the president's experienced and technologically-savvy campaign staff, they weren't enough to make Obama a one-term president.

"My major take away from the talk was that the ultimate source of President Obama's reelection victory came from his team's more extensive and sophisticated use of information technology such as social networking, data mining and micro-targeting," local party chairman, Kirk Gravelle, said after the meeting.

"This not only allowed him to reach more people and register more voters, but also to tailor and focus his message to those selfsame voters about issues that were important to them. It also allowed him to control the perception of his opponent's message."

Mr. Gravelle said the county party intends to make better use of social media platforms "to not only help get our message out, but to reach more people, and be more effective in our communications. We need to do a better job of educating the electorate."

Mr. Libby's remarks were preceded by a presentation from long-time Jacksonville University political science professor Stephen Baker, who described the environment in which the candidates did battle.

He reviewed the nation's demographics and voting patterns, and the campaign spending on both sides during the hour-long forum.

"As Will Rogers said, we have the best Congress that money can buy," Mr. Baker told the group before detailing spending by the respective parties, candidates and outside groups, which topped \$1 billion in 2012.

He said the Obama campaign relied more on candidate contributions and less on spending by outside groups, while Romney had more funding from outside groups and less in



At left is Jacksonville University political science professor Stephen Baker. At right, Republican strategist John Libby.

direct contributions.

"Current laws make it easy for outside groups to raise and spend a lot of money, but they [the groups] always have their own agendas, which sometimes can be at cross purposes with the candidate," said Mr. Baker.

The professor also cited the Obama campaign's "creative use of campaign technology" to turn around the president's polling numbers.

At one point, following the first presidential debate, Mr. Baker said, Obama's disapproval rating was higher than his approval rating and Romney was ahead.

Exit polls, however, showed Obama was favored by women, voters 44 years old and under, minorities, the least and most educated voters, the unmarried, Jewish voters and those with incomes less than \$50,000 a year.

Romney, meanwhile, won majority support among men, those 45 years or older, whites, those earning \$50,000 or more, married people and most Christian voters.

The candidates split the Catholic vote.

Mr. Baker said one of the biggest shifts in voting patterns can be seen among Hispanics. Since 1972, the once reliably Republican voters have been moving more and more to support Democrats.

Mr. Libby identified four key swing states that made the difference in the election — Florida, New Hampshire, Ohio and Virginia.

Effective use of e-mail, social media and targeted television and online advertising in those states, combined with the "ground game" honed back in 2008, likely helped Obama overcome a sluggish economic recovery and garner a narrow victory.

"The smartest thing Barack Obama did in 2008 was keep his staff together in Chicago in a nondescript building on the sixth floor in a place called 'the cave,'" Mr. Libby told fellow party members. "In the cave were a bunch of geeks with tattoos and piercings, most of them 30 and under."

"What they understood was taking Twitter accounts, Facebook accounts, hits on ESPN fantasy football's website, TV ratings and political polling, and merging this all into one



At left is Jacksonville University political science professor Stephen Baker. At right, Republican strategist John Libby.

centralized database so they knew who they were."

Mr. Libby also pointed to the consultants maintaining voter lists for the Romney campaign.

"It wasn't profitable for them to take you out of their database, to stop sending you mail or making rob calls to your house, because they were making money for each piece," he said. "We wasted a lot of money."

In terms of boots on the ground, the Romney campaign was outnumbered, too.

Mr. Libby said in the four key swing states, including Florida, Obama had more than twice as many field offices at 272 than his opponent with 118 offices.

Inside 14 swing states, Obama counted 631 offices to Romney's 262.

"Everyone thought that was a very good presentation with a lot of good information that they needed to hear," said Mr. Gravelle.

Though neither speaker addressed GOP policies or the party platform as possible reasons for Romney's loss, Mr. Gravelle said they may have played a role.

"I think the perception of the party's platform made a difference in the election," he said. "The use of micro targeting by President Obama's team allowed him to frame his view of the Republican Party platform to our disadvantage, instead of our party effectively communicating what our actual platform was and why."

"I believe we need to learn a lesson from this election and stop letting the other side frame the conversation. We need to clearly communicate why our ideas will get this country back on track, as well as why the president's policies are not only failing, but the root cause for a number of the issues currently facing our society."

To hear more of Mr. Libby's and Mr. Baker's analysis on the 2012 presidential election, visit the video section of [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com).

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# OBITUARIES

Page 8  
MAY 2, 2013

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

## Funeral for Phyllis Russell Saturday

Phyllis G. Russell, 68, of Middleburg died on April 27, 2013 at her residence. She was born in Boyd County, Kentucky on January 26, 1945 to the late Durward B. Gambill and Corrine Littleton Gambill. Phyllis was a resident of Jacksonville for the past 28 years. She retired from State Farm as an insurance agent after 40 years of service.



Phyllis Russell

Ms. Russell was committed to working and volunteered much of her time to helping cancer patients. She enjoyed watching television, especially the cooking shows, collecting Elvis Presley items, listening to country and Elvis music and attending family reunions. She was preceded in death by brother James Lee Gambill.

Phyllis is survived by her loving daughter Lynn P. Gibson of Middleburg; brothers Larry Ray Gambill of Ashland, KY and Randy Allen (Veronica) Gambill of Lake Worth, FL; sisters Betty Poulain of Macclenny, Jeannie (Jerry) Sheets of Huntington, WV, Carol Pennington of Macclenny and Arletta Fay Huddleston of Buckhannon, WV; granddaughter Angyl Porter (Joshua) Kille of Jacksonville, sister-in-law Carolyn Sue Gambill of Florence, SC; many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Ms. Russell will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 11 am at Raiford Road Church with Pastor Eddie Griffis officiating. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends the morning of the funeral from 9:30 - 11 am at the church. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.



In loving memory of Deborah Lynn Griffis

08/28/1980-05/01/2001

Each time we see the sun go down, it seems the end of day. And yet, we know the sun is rising somewhere far away. And when we lose someone we love, we learn to trust somehow that a new life, in a brighter place, is just beginning now. A place of grace and peace and joy beyond all time and sorrow, where loving hearts who part today will meet again tomorrow.

WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS, MOM, DAD, JOEY, MEREDITH, HUNTER, AUNT DIANE AND GRANNY GRIFFIS



In loving memory of Laverne Arline Daddy

I am so thankful to have had you in my life. As a child you guided me, and as an adult, you were my friend. I will miss your visits and you calling me to meet you for lunch. You will always be in my heart. I love and miss you.

YOUR CHILDREN JUDY, CARLA, ROLAND AND KIM AND GRANDCHILDREN



In loving memory of Tessa Lynn Godwin

Feb. 2, 1990 - May 4, 2003

As we celebrate your ten-year home going, we will savor the precious memories that you gave us. We miss your laugh, smile, touch and your sweet voice. We wait patiently for the day that we will be together again forever.

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS, YOUR FAMILY

## Thanks so much

The family of "Coach" Tom Covington wants to express its appreciation to the community for the outpouring of love and blessings during our time of loss.

Your thoughtfulness, generosity and shared memories were very much appreciated and will be cherished for years to come.

The "Coach" Tom Covington family

We publish obituaries & pictures FREE!

**MACCLENNY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
573 S. 5th St. 259-6059  
Sunday Bible Study 9:45 am  
Fellowship 10:30 am - 11:00 am  
Worship Services 11:00 am  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm  
Minister Sam E. Kitching

**Saint Peter's in the Glen**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH  
9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
10:00 am Sunday Worship/Holy Communion  
7:00 pm Wednesday Study/Holy Communion  
Glen St. Mary, Florida  
1/2 mile South of I-10 on CR 125, right on Nursery Road the historic Budder Mathis House

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr.  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Preaching Service 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm  
523 North Boulevard W. | a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny  
[www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com](http://www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com) • 259-4529

## Admits to rash of vehicle burglaries

A Macclenny man was arrested the morning of April 27 and charged with a dozen overnight vehicle burglaries in his north city neighborhood.

Michael Doyle, 18, who resides on Blueberry Court in the Rolling Hills subdivision off CR 23B, admitted to county deputies he was responsible for the crimes, and all of the stolen items were recovered after dawn that morning.

Deputy Chris Walker said a neighbor called police after seeing a man matching Mr. Doyle's description acting suspiciously about 6 am on Huckleberry Trail South. He drove up on the suspect standing outside his residence and Mr. Doyle insisted he had just left his house.

The officer then learned that the suspect told Sgt. Shawn Bishara the suspect was wearing dark clothing and a dark baseball hat with white lettering similar to what he had just seen Mr. Doyle wearing.

Deputy Walker returned to the residence, where Mr. Doyle exited without a shirt or hat, and responded "It was me, man" when asked about the similarity in clothing. He then pointed to items on the ground near his driveway, including a computer tower, handgun and a pair of boots.

All turned out to be taken from parked cars in the area. More items were found in

the suspect's house after his mother gave police permission to search, and others including two more handguns, were found off the property after the suspect led police to them.

Mr. Doyle is charged with three counts of armed burglary, 10 of felony burglary, five of felony larceny, three of firearm theft and seven of misdemeanor larceny.

The property taken that night and recovered ranged from computers owned by the school district to electronic notebooks, ammunition, sunglasses, a tool set, DVD player and other personal items.

start planning now to HONOR YOUR SENIOR in this year's graduation section

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS visit our website 904.259.2400

**New Hope Church, Inc.**  
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Faingrounds Rd.  
Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all  
Sunday  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Services 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Macclenny, invites you to join us for the Evangelistic Ministry of  
**Dr. ED NEWTON**  
May 5th-8th  
Sunday - 10:45 am & 6:00 pm  
Monday - 6:00 pm  
Youth Pizza Blast (5:00 PM in the FLC)  
Tuesday - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday - 6:00 pm  
Family Night (Hamburgers & Hotdogs @ 5:00 pm in FLC)

**Hebrew Messianic Assembly**  
Baker County's only Synagogue of any kind  
Yes, we believe in and love Jesus-Yahshua.  
Meeting Saturday-Shabbat 12 PM  
Call 904-259-1725 • E-Mail: [theramk@gmail.com](mailto:theramk@gmail.com)  
We are here to stay! Matthew 28:20

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

**Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church**  
121 North † 259-4461  
Macclenny, FL  
Pastor Tim Chesbire  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm

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

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This week @ CFT...  
-Wednesday, May 1-  
6:10 Wednesday Night Family Dinner  
7:00 God's Kids Midweek Service  
7:00 Common Ground Worship Service  
7:00 Adult Midweek Service  
-Thursday, May 2-  
9:00 National Day of Prayer Live Stream  
-Sunday, May 5-  
10:00 Sunday School For All Ages  
11:00 Morning Worship Service  
11:00 Children's Church  
6:00 Evening Services  
connect grow serve  
Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Worship: 7:00 PM  
"like" us on facebook Visit our website at [christianfellowshiptemple.com](http://christianfellowshiptemple.com)



## How to 'cope' when cops die Seminar held here

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR [reporter@bakercountypress.com](mailto:reporter@bakercountypress.com)

More than 100 law enforcement personnel met last week at Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny to spend the day discussing the very uncomfortable reality that even well-trained officers sometimes lose their lives on duty.

Four speakers — all with first-hand experience of policeman deaths — recounted their stories in an effort to better equip law enforcement agencies and individual officers likely to go through the same loss at some point in their careers.

Florida Narcotic Officers' Association sponsored the April 25 training billed as "Aftermath: Before, During and After a Critical Incident." It was the first training session of its kind for the association and area agencies.

"It's a tough subject to get law enforcement officers in a room to talk about, and tell them this will happen to you ... We have to face that reality," said Mary Justino, a civilian spokesperson for the Clay County Sheriff's Office, which lost a young detective last year.

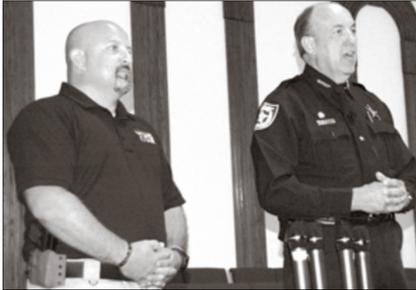
But accepting that notion, and learning how to prepare for and react to such tragedies, runs counter to much of the training that law enforcement officers undertake, said Randy Crews, a narcotics investigator with the Baker County Sheriff's Office who developed the event.

He said officers are taught early on to depend on their training. They're told if they perform as trained, they'll survive and make it home to their families. But when that doesn't occur, the assumption is often that errors in judgement led to the tragedy.

"You can be doing everything you're supposed to do and still end up in a body bag," said Mr. Crews. "It's not always when an officer makes a mistake."

The day's training began with a talk from Clay County Detective Matthew Hanline, who was shot while entering a suspected meth lab in Middleburg on February 16, 2012. His fellow detective, David White, 35, was also hit and died at Orange Park Medical Center.

The shooter was also killed and eight suspects have been charged in the incident.



Sheriff Rick Beseler (right) and Detective Matthew Hanline of Clay County.

Mr. Hanline, named the 2013 National Sheriff's Association Deputy of the Year, recalled in detail the events leading up to the shooting and how the incident affected him and his team.

Talking about such tragedies is very important to the healing process, he said. Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler shared his memories of that evening during a presentation on the agency's response to the incident. The presentation included clips of television news coverage from the incident and the investigation that followed.

"What I want to focus on is how [the shooting] affected the community, the agency, the families; things that you may not think about unless you're an administrator," the sheriff said to an estimated 130 attendees from across the region and as far away as Pinellas County.

On the night of the incident, the sheriff was at home, wondering what his wife was making for dinner, when he got the call that two officers had been shot.

"It's the worst thing as a sheriff. You pray you never hear those words," he said.

After arriving at the scene on Alligator Boulevard and being briefed, the sheriff said news media started arriving. He knew he had to talk to the victims' families first, then to the community through the media.

"They're going to say something whether you say something or not," he said. "You have to make sure they get the right news, not just the fastest news."

**NEW LIFE CHURCH**  
Experience the Change  
**REVIVAL**  
with Pastor Scott King  
May 5-7  
Sunday 10:45 am  
Monday-Tuesday 7 pm  
Hwy. 121 North, Macclenny



## Gator coach headlines YMCA awards banquet

Florida Gator head coach Will Muschamp (above) exhorted the virtues of volunteers and others inspiring youths via the YMCA during the organization's April 11 Playmakers Dinner at the First Baptist of Macclenny's Family Life Center. The second annual event recognizes individuals and organizations in Baker County that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Emceed by YMCA board chair Mag McGauley of Glen St. Mary, the banquet was followed by presentations of Youth Development Awards to Andy Johnston and Alice Oswald for their volunteer work with the YMCA and Baker Bullets swim team; the Social Responsibility Award went to Y volunteer and board member Shelly Nerj; the Healthy Living Award to Kristie Fletcher; the Business Playmaker Award to the Baker County Rotary Club and the Business Youth Development Award to Country Federal Credit Union.

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unless otherwise arranged in advance. Ads
can be mailed provided they are accompa-
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should be mailed to: Classified Ads, The Baker
County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL
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accuracy of ads or notices given over the
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ing will be limited to the first publication only.
If after that time, the ad continues to run
without notification of error by the person or
agency for whom it was published, then that
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The Baker County Press reserves the right to
refuse advertising or any other material
which in the opinion of the publisher does not
meet standards of publication.

FOR SALE

Yessir the Franklin Mercantile is open for
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10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Railroad crossing in
Glen. 259-6040. 3/7ffc

AUTOMOBILES

1988 Toyota Pick-up, \$900; 1996 Mazda
4 cylinder pick-up, 5 speed, \$1700; 1974
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2006 Holiday Rambler Alumascape 5th
wheel, 31', excellent condition, loaded with
extras; 2006 Chevrolet 2500 HD diesel. To-
tal for both \$51,500. Will sell trailer sepa-
rately for \$27,500. Call 904-653-1212,
5/2-9p

ANIMALS

Generator 3500 watt, needs little work,
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AC, \$50; nice real wood queen sleigh bed
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size mattress(box springs complete bed),
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each. 904-408-1598. 259-2271. 5/2p
Ford 2000 30 HP tractor, looks and runs
great, \$3000; 3 point hitch implements for
sale. 912-266-1641, landline 912-843-
2768. 5/2p
BN Ford tractor, good condition, runs well;
with mower. \$2500 firm. 259-8418 after
5 p.m. 5/2p

FOUND

Small/medium size Poodle mix. Found
at Exxon by Burger King. 904-545-2502,
5/2p

HELP WANTED

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

Avon Sales Reps Needed. Join our team
for \$10. Call Sharon 904-772-7142 or join
online www.sharonAvon.com. Reference
code: shamilton or shop www.youravon.
com/shamilton. 5/2-9p

Receptionist needed. Computer skills
a must. Reliable & able to communi-
cate clearly. Send resume to comment@
PritchettTrucking.com or apply in person
at Pritchett Trucking, Lake Butler. 5/2c

Qualified HHA/CNA's-Hiring for In Home
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Care. 904-215-8520. Drug Free Work-
place. 4/25-5/16p

Part time church secretary. First United
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clenny. Mail resume or call for application
259-3551. 4/25-5/2c

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Home on the weekends! Running Class-
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Janitor needed part time. No criminal
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must live in Macclenny/Glen area. Send
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RN/LPN, full time; 12 hour shifts, days/
nights/weekends. We are looking for TEAM
players. Must pass level 2 AHCA screen-
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Immediate opening for a full time Mainte-
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penry and HVAC repair. Pool certification
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resumes to: hrj@royal-american.com
-Housing available CALL Aviation Institute
of Maintenance 866-314-3769. 5/2p

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5/2c

Experienced painters needed. Must have
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5/2p

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2790 or 259-3300. 4/25ffc

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4/25-5/16c

2 BR, 1 BA mobile home on 1 acre. \$550/
month; 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA on 1 acre, \$600/
month plus deposits. Maxville/Middleburg,
904-289-7784 or 904-910-5089. 5/2p

Lots for rent in Macclenny and Cuyler.
Ready for mobile home. 259-6735.
12/13ffc

Clean 2 BR, 1 BA mobile home, 8306
Woodlawn Road, \$550/month plus \$550
deposit. Call 904-813-1580 or 259-2255.
4/11c

2 or 3 BR mobile home \$385-\$550; half
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ed, family neighborhood. 912-843-8118 or
904-699-8637. www.rentyes.net. 1/17ffc
5/2-9p

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home in Sanderson; on
1 acre corner lot, front/back porch. \$750/
month plus \$800 deposit. 904-251-4130.
4/25-5/2p

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3 BR, 2 BA mobile home. \$600/month,
deposit required. 904-545-7888. 5/2p

2 BR, 2 BA mobile home in Glen. \$600/
month plus \$600 deposit. Service animals
only. 388-344-5065. 5/2p

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home, located in Mac-
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\$500/month plus \$500 deposit. 904-408-
2480. 5/2p

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ener; clean and ready to move in. \$600/
month plus 1st, last and \$300 deposit.
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ances, air and heat. \$800/month plus
\$800 deposit. 259-6966 5/2c

YARD SALES
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-
2:00 p.m., 4668 Barber Road. Annual sale.
Pictures, home decor, kitchen, pool supplies,
Polaris pool cleaner, TVs, clothes. Look for
the big tent.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, W. Thomas
Circle Drive, Macclenny, 2 family yard sale.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 1151 Copper Creek Drive.
Huge garage sale. Furniture, household items, clothes and
lots of stuff.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 10448 Andrew Raulerson
Road, Glen.

Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Macclenny II,
4477 Dogwood Street. 3 families.

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. until items sell, US 90 storage unit 67.
Furniture, housewares, variety of items; priced to sell.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 6255 Miltontdale Road, fol-
low signs. Boys and girls clothes infant-3T, shoes, toys, fur-
niture and small appliances.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 4394 Birch Street, Macclen-
ny. Church Camp fundraiser. Lots of furniture, tools, electron-
ics, clothes for all ages; you name it, we may have it.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 10424 St. Mary's Circle, East.
Lots of clothes for all ages, \$1 and under; lots of other items.
Rain cancels.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 1316 Copper Plantation Court in Mac-
clenny. Lots of miscellaneous items.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. GO CR125 South past Mud-
lake Road; look for signs on left. Estate sale, open house.

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inputs and retrieves information and
data from a computer. Minimum
Qualifications: Associate of Arts de-
gree in appropriate area plus two
years records management experi-
ence preferably with one year finan-
cial aid experience; or High school
diploma plus three years records
experience, one of which preferably
is in a financial aid area. Requires
knowledge of federal and state laws,
procedures and guidelines. Knowl-
edge of accounting procedures. Skill
in use of computer. Knowledge of basic com-
puter data entry operations. Ability to
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Ability to relate to students, other
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ICE and US Marshals inmate counts at jail decline

From page 1
do not get alarmed when their
numbers fluctuate in the short
term," Mr. Bishop said by e-mail
recently.
"ICE has apparently under-
gone some policy changes re-
lating to the way they decide

which detainees are going to be
detained and for how long. We
have been told by them to expect
a capped number of around 225
versus the 250 number we have
previously worked with. They
have also told us that we should
prepare for the current number,

225, to be increasing again, mov-
ing forward. Of course, we have
no way of predicting how far into
the future this may be. We have
seen these fluctuations in detain-
ee population in the past years
as well and do not get alarmed
when these periods come about,"
Commissioner Gordon Crews
was also a little concerned about
the drop, but agreed with Mr.
Bishop's predictions.
"Every time the numbers drop
we should be a little concerned,"
he said. "Does it make me think
the sky's falling? No. I think the
number will come back up. I
think we have a good relation-

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ship with ICE and the Marshals. I
don't think that's changed at all."
In fact, Mr. Bishop believes
that relationship is strong and
will prove fruitful for BCDC's fi-
nancial health.
"We of course communicate
with both ICE and USMS [U.S.
Marshals Service] often about
this and urge them to utilize the
facility. Coincidental with this,
we make sure the facility is op-
erating at the highest standard
according to their requirements,
which does have a direct impact
on their willingness to place
more inmates here," he said.
Commissioner Mark Hartley
is optimistic as well. He will
continue to monitor the inmate
counts and rely on the commis-
sion's representative on BCDC's
board of directors, former county
commissioner Alex Robinson, to
sound the alarm if need be.
"I don't know what that
amount would have to get down
to, but we have a representative
there, so I'm sure he'll keep us
up to date if it every gets to that
point," he said. "But I don't fore-
see that. I'm very optimistic."

Commissioner Crews said he
intends to keep a close eye on
policy changes in Washington
that could impact ICE detainee
numbers here, given they ac-
count for about half the facility's
prisoner population.
"That's about all you can do at
this point," he said.
Commissioner James Croft,
who requested monthly reports
from jail officials on federal pris-
oners in March, shares Mr. Crews
concern about policy shifts at the
federal level.
But he appears more worried
than his counterparts about the
drop in inmate numbers, specifi-
cally its implications for the
financial stability of BCDC, and
by extension the county, going
forward.
"I know I'm hashing up old
stuff ... but there was a lot of
discussion about whether the
county is liable for those bonds,"
Commissioners Croft said re-
cently. "The word was put down
by the county and BCDC folks
that there's no liability issue for
the county, but there's a line [in
an agreement between the coun-
ty and BCDC] that talks about
the 'best efforts' of the county.
That opens up the door."

The language Mr. Croft re-
ferred calls for the county to
make its best efforts, short of al-
locating property tax revenue, to
ensure the bond debt is repaid in
a timely manner. Should those
efforts become necessary, Mr.
Croft is afraid the county budget
could take a large hit.

Plus, the attorney wrote, the
county commission should make
its best efforts to stave off foreclo-
sure anyway, since every county
needs a place for its prisoners
and the sheriff's department.
Commissioner Giddens said
he had concerns about the "best
efforts" language at one time,
but after reviewing minutes from
county commission meetings be-
fore the deal was struck between
BCDC and the county, he's of the
opinion "we are not liable should
BCDC fail."

"I would not be against hav-
ing a different legal opinion on
any potential liability, but I don't
think we need to spend any mon-
ey on that at this time," he said
by e-mail in mid-April. "I am OK
with the opinion of our current
legal counsel."

Commissioner Crews and
Hartley echoed those sentiments.
"I've been challenged about this
by a few people," said Mr.
Crews, "but every time it's ad-
dressed the same way; the coun-
ty is in no way liable. That's the
legal opinion we've gotten every
time."

Commissioner Jimmy Ander-
son did not respond to requests
for comment on the drop in fed-
eral inmates.

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 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.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bennett  
**Wed March 29th**

Alicia Marie DeBoe and Joshua Taylor Bennett, both of Macclenny, were married at 6 pm on March 29 at Nocatee in Ponte Vedra.  
 The bride is the daughter of Rick and Lisa Deboe of Glen St. Mary and is employed as a registered nurse at St. Vincent's South in Jacksonville.  
 The groom is the son of Anthony and Sissy Bennett of Macclenny and is a corrections officer at Union Correctional.  
 The couple enjoyed a honeymoon cruise to the Western Caribbean and will live in Macclenny.



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

**Church of Latter-Day Saints kick off trash p/u**

The group above, many from the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Macclenny, spent Saturday morning cleaning up the shoulders of South 5th Street as part of the county's new clean-up effort. The county supplies vests, caps and other supplies to volunteers who organize litter pickups along the county's roadways and parks. For more information about the program, please call the county at 259-3613.

**Family reunion**

The Howard-Johns family reunion will be held on May 4 at the Ag Center on US 90 in west Macclenny. It begins at 1 pm with a dinner.  
 All relatives of the late Ealy Allison Howard and Lössie Moe Johns Howard are invited. Please bring a favorite dish.

**Thrift reunion**

The annual Thrift family reunion will be held on Sunday, May 5 at the home of Felton Thrift in the Georgia Bend.  
 It begins at 1 pm; bring your family and food to celebrate the Thrift heritage.  
 Take SR 121 north to Highway 185 just north of the state line. Turn left on Alfred Thrift Rd. (mile marker 3).

**Band group seeks donors for yard sale**

The public and supporters of school bands are asked to donate saleable items for an upcoming yard sale to raise funds for musical instruments.  
 Items may be dropped off at the band rooms at both BCHS and BCMS after school hours in the afternoons. If you have something that needs to be picked up, please call 259-3051 to make arrangements.  
 The Baker County Friends of Instrumental Arts will furnish letters for tax deduction purposes to donors who furnish their names and phone numbers when they drop off items.  
 The yard sale is at Friendship Park in Glen St. Mary on May 18. For more information, telephone Kim Pietrowski at 904-334-4499.

**Harrell captures 2nd place at ag event**

Senior Sarah Harrell took one of the top spots in the FFA education career development event held April 26 at the University of Florida. Twenty chapters from throughout Florida gathered to compete for the top 10 spots in this inaugural event.  
 Harrell placed second in the selection process for North Florida. The top 10 participants will advance to compete for the state championship in June.

The purpose of the event is to emphasize basic skills necessary for a career as an agricultural educator. Teaching agriculture involves teaching students about applications of science, management, leadership and technology in the food, fiber and natural resource industry.  
 Teaching methods emphasize hands on approaches where application of skills and knowledge is central to lesson presentations. Agricultural Education strives to make learning enjoyable, meaningful and lasting.



Miss Browning and Miss Wilkerson. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAECE FORD

**First place finish**

BCHS freshmen FFA students Hannah Wilkerson and Scarlett Browning won first place at the Florida FFA state ornamental horticulture demonstrations this past weekend at the University of Florida.  
 "Hannah and Scarlett prepared for this career development event for six weeks and I am so proud of their accomplishment," said sponsor Caece Ford.  
 More than 100 teams and individuals from throughout Florida gathered to compete for the top spot. The event is designed to stimulate careful planning, thorough knowledge and the ability to explain, by work and action, the "how and why" of various horticulture practices.  
 Ford's team captured the state title in her first year as sponsor for the team.

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**Benefit wash for volleyball**

The Wildcat volleyball team's car wash fundraiser, originally set for last Saturday but cancelled due to rain, was rescheduled for May 4 from 9 am to noon at the Lowder Street Ex-con station. Team coach Heather Sulkowski said tickets for car wash that were already sold will still be honored.

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**Lunch:** Shrimp poppers with macaroni & cheese, roll or baked lasagna with roll. Choice of orange wedges, fruit juice, garden salad or green peas.

**Tuesday, May 7**  
**Breakfast:** Pancakes, raisins, fruit juice.  
**Lunch:** Buffalo chicken with roll or cheesesticks with marinara. Choice of pears and peaches, apple, garden salad or mashed potatoes.

**Wednesday, May 8**  
**Breakfast:** Chicken biscuit, appleauce and fruit juice.  
**Lunch:** Chicken nuggets with a roll or pork ribette on a bun. Choice of banana, fruit juice, garden salad, sweet potato or baked beans.

**Thursday, May 9**  
**Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, banana or fruit juice.  
**Lunch:** Tacos or beef & bean burrito. Choice of corn, grapes or fruit juice and cookie.

**Friday, May 10**  
**Breakfast:** Ham & cheese biscuit, pears or fruit juice.  
**Lunch:** Pulled pork sandwich or pepperoni pizza. Choice of fruit juice, fruit, broccoli with cheese, garden salad.

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**Lady Cats are in semi-finals**  
*With win over Matanzas*

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

The Lady Wildcat softball team came from behind to defeat Matanzas 8-3 on April 25 to advance to the regional semi-finals, where they will face Ponte Vedra on the road on Tuesday night, April 30.  
 The Cats left it till late, trailing Matanzas 3-2 going into the final inning but exploding for six runs in the sixth inning to snatch the win. Corley Sweet got the win on the mound, allowing only one hit in four innings pitched. Starter Mackenzie Wingard went two innings and gave up only two hits.  
 The Cats jumped out on top 1-0 in the first inning. Jennifer Hodges reached on a bunt and Kylie Holton brought her home with a double to open scoring.  
 The Pirates tied the game and went ahead with a pair of runs in the second inning. It could have been a big inning for Matanzas



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Clockwise from above: Jennifer Hodges narrowly avoids the tag at second, Genie Taylor (No. 3) is congratulated by teammates for a home run, Branda Jarvis makes the out at second, and McKenzie Wingard at the plate; all during the 8-3 win over Matanzas April 25.



**Kenny erases five run lead to win district**

It was a disappointing end to the season for the Wildcat baseball team as it blew a five-run lead against Bishop Kenny in the district tie game on April 25, losing 9-5.  
 Still, the Cats to travel to Ponte Vedra at 7 pm on Thursday, May 2 to play in the first round of the regionals.  
 BCHS beat Forrest 10-0 on April 23 at home to get to the district championship. Jared Crews picked up his third win of the season throwing all five innings. Ethan Wilkerson had three hits and Hunter Hanks added two hits to lead the offense.  
 The Cats looked to have the championship wrapped up on April 25 when they jumped out to a 5-0 lead. But Kenny rallied back for the win, which frustrated Coach Fred Matricardi.  
 "We didn't hit, pitch or play



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Clockwise from above: Ethan Wilkerson meets the runner at home for an out, Hunter Hanks slides for the catch and Mikal Flores with an out at first.

defense well enough to win," said Matricardi. "You'd think a 5-0 lead would do the job but we didn't deserve to win."  
 Hunter Hanks started on the mound and Jacob Milton took the loss in relief.  
 Matricardi is taking nothing for granted as the team travels to Ponte Vedra.  
 "They are a tough team that

was in the state championship game last year. They have a good arm but I expect our guys to play better than we did Thursday," he said.



**Ruise Jr. gets MVP as Cats' top scorer**

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

Charles Ruise Jr. was named MVP at the annual BCHS basketball awards ceremony on April 22 in the BCHS gym. The son of Coach Charles Ruise Sr. was also the top scorer for the Cats as point guard.  
 Ruise was also named Best Offensive Player. He averaged 21.8 points per game for the Wildcats this season.  
 Cameron Mack won Most Assists with 5.6 per game.  
 Jesse Gardner was the team's Best Free Throw Shooter with a 79 percent average for the season.  
 Best Shot Blocker and Best Rebounder went to CeCe Jefferson. He had 2.6 rebounds per game and 160 rebounds for the season.  
 Johnny Lamb was the Most Versatile Player and also won the Todd Ferriera Funeral Home Senior Player of the Year.  
 There were two junior varsity awards given out at the ceremony and they went to Logan Kish and Christian Johns.

**3 Cats place at state meet**

**BOB GERARD | SPORTS**

The Wildcat track team posted a good showing at the 2A state championships at Hodges Stadium at UNF this past weekend. Mike Boone and Rashodd Hadley both finished in the top five in their events.  
 Boone finished fourth in the triple jump with a 45' 5". Shaquille Griffin of Lakewood won the even with a 49' 10" hop, skip and jump.  
 Hadley finished fifth in the shot put with a 51' 7" throw. Frederick Jones of Monsignor Pace won the event with a 58' 5" throw.  
 CeCe Jefferson and Hadley finished 14th and 15th, respectively, in the discus.  
 The Cats finished 25th out of 55 schools competing.

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# Relay for Life draws 250 teams

**From page 1**  
members those who lost their fight against the disease, all while raising money for cancer research and the American Cancer Society.

"The band is kind of passionate about the whole thing," said Mr. Thomas, 39, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2005.

"They saw what I went through fighting for nine months and going through radiation. They've all lost somebody to cancer," he said. "It's very close to our hearts."

Though the fund raising isn't finished yet, with a wrap-up party scheduled at the end of May, various relay teams from Baker County have donated some \$34,000 to the cause thus far.

About \$7700 arrived during the 17-hour relay held overnight April 26 and 27.

Event chair Kristie Fletcher said last year's effort raised about \$34,000 in all and more funds are expected to come in this sum-

mer.  
"We expect a few thousand more as four more teams have a considerable amount yet to contribute," she said.

More than 250 relay team members participated, including nearly 50 cancer survivors, and most of them were accompanied by a supporting cast of family and friends. Mrs. Fletcher guessed about 1000 people took part in the 2013 relay.

"The greatest success is seeing survivors enjoy themselves and their families and just watching them take the time to celebrate the journey on which cancer has taken them," said Mrs. Fletcher. "We don't typically celebrate milestones much anymore in our country and community. This is an opportunity to do that for them. Typically this disease alienates people, but at relay, they see they have a common bond with other survivors and rejoice in their victory."

Planning for next year's relay will begin soon with a rally in

June.  
"We are looking for new faces to help in the planning process for next year's relay," Mrs. Fletcher said. "We want to maintain the tradition we began in 2011 to fund raise early and recruit most of our teams in early

fall."  
Mr. Thomas had just one word to describe this year's relay.

"The only thing I can say is awesome," he said. "Baker County puts on a great benefit for the American Cancer Society."



Above, 18-month-old Sarah Chance makes strides with her mother and grandpa. Here grandmother, Diane Chance, is a cancer survivor. Below, other cancer survivors circle the track at the start of the 17-hour relay. At top right is relay committee member Beverly Stewart lighting luminaries.



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