



Baker Bullets stroke past Winston at home pool

See page 16

Boys team to state, four others in sectionals

See page 15



75¢

JULY 18, 2013 THURSDAY

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 13 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism excellence in 2012

SO raids residence used for drug sale

Sheriff's deputies descended on a residence on D. E. Long Dr. near Macclenny the afternoon of July 9 and arrested an occupant on numerous felony and misdemeanor drug possession counts.

The raid was the result of an undercover buy conducted at the address in June.

Investigator Matt Yarborough said Carol Parker, 22, of Macclenny was arrested following a search of a bedroom where she had been staying off and on.



Carol Parker

Property owner Pamela Stewart consented to the search that yielded both powder and crack cocaine, five varieties of prescriptions including opiates and anti-anxiety drugs, partially smoked marijuana cigarettes, a weighing scale and other paraphernalia.

The investigator said items were found on the suspect's bed, in her purse and under the bed during the search late that afternoon. Police also found plastic baggies commonly used to package drugs, and they confiscated \$83 believed to be the proceeds from a drug sale.

Ms. Parker is also charged with selling Oxycodone and morphine to an undercover buyer at the same address on June 20. An earlier report by Investigator Mike Hauge, who along with Mr. Yarborough handles narcotics cases, said the drugs were purchased for \$60.

In another felony possession case, Deputy Trey McCullough arrested David Bell, 36, of Macclenny for having 96.5 grams of packaged marijuana in a vehicle that was stopped downtown the afternoon of July 9 because the driver was not wearing a seat belt.

The officer said he observed Mr. Bell toss the vacuum pack of pot onto a rear floorboard behind the front passenger seat in a vehicle driven by Larry Smiley, 55, of Glen St. Mary.

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The new county fire chief's strong suit: training

See page 8

Sand mine denied by board 4-1

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

After a marathon public hearing in the county courthouse that began at 6:50 pm on July 16 and ended at 1:30 am the next day, county commissioners voted 4-1 to deny a request by Oldcastle Southern Group to mine sand in southeastern Baker County after dozens of people spoke for and against the plan.

The proposed sand mining operation "would not be advantageous to our community ... and would not promote the general welfare," said Commissioner James Croft, who moved to reject Oldcastle's application for a special zoning exception for mining. Commissioner Adam Giddens cast the dissenting vote.

Mr. Croft and others said they did not believe that the county would benefit from the proposed mine nearly as much as Oldcastle would, despite the company's claim that its recent agreement with the City of Macclenny to use city reclaimed water in the mining operation would spur economic development.

During the more than 5½ hours of testimony from dozens of people, some supported the proposal and said it would be an asset to the county, while many others urged the board to send Oldcastle officials packing. Marcus Rhoden, who resides



County commissioners face a packed courtroom for public hearings Tuesday night.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

on West River Circle, presented commissioners a petition that he said contained over 2000 signatures of people from all over Baker County all opposed to sand mining.

Mark Broughton, representing the Baker County Conservation Coalition, urged commissioners to kill the proposal, which he said was a product of "one of the best jobs of corporate seduction I've ever seen."

Despite Oldcastle's statement that the company has no plans to drill into the aquifer, Mr. Broughton and others said they didn't believe that promise would last.

"No plans to drill is no plans to drill now," he said. He also said last year a company attorney threatened the county with a lawsuit if the mining application were denied, but "now it's being soft sold" with promises

of economic development, millions of dollars worth of equipment provided to the City of Macclenny and other enticements.

The commission's vote came about three weeks after the county's Land Planning Agency voted 3-1 to recommend approval of Oldcastle's zoning application on June 27, following another public hearing that only drew a handful of oppo-

nents.

The site, roughly 437 acres almost three miles south of Interstate 10 and east of SR 228, is zoned agriculture, a category that permits mining only with an approved special exception from the county.

Oldcastle received its final environmental permit from the state this spring and also

See page 5

Small business owners among the uninsured

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

When Anthony Bennett and his wife Catherine started a restaurant in Macclenny eight years ago, health insurance was not something they talked about.

"It did not even occur to us," Mr. Bennett recalled. "We never really ever went to the doctor."

They were in their 30s and healthy and their two children had affordable coverage through Florida KidCare, a government subsidized program for modest income families. Plus, health insurance rates on the private market were too high, said Mr. Bennett, 44.

That could change later this year when a federal health-care exchange, known as the Healthcare Marketplace, launches in October and begins selling private plans to uninsured Floridians, some of whom will be eligible for federal subsidies to buy coverage.

Mr. Bennett and another small businessman in Sanderson, Greg Sheppard, both uninsured today, say they'll certainly weigh their options when the time comes.

Mr. Bennett says his family's been pretty lucky when it

comes to healthcare, "knock on wood."

The couple and their children haven't experienced any serious medical conditions. They've gotten routine medical care at the health department, emergency room or the CVS Minute Clinic as needed, paying cash for the services.

When Mr. Bennett broke his foot helping out a friend, the friend's homeowner insurance paid for hospital care. Beyond his wife's annual checkup and treatment for a few minor incidents, they rarely need healthcare. They don't take regular medications and they remain relatively healthy.

Still, Mr. Bennett said, they've reached the age when regular doctor visits could prove beneficial to the couple.

"Unless it's mandatory, I don't go," he said.

Mr. Bennett's family history — which includes diabetes, strokes and heart attacks — concerns him nonetheless.

"You name it, they had it," he says of his parents.

The biggest challenge to getting coverage, he admits, has been the cost.

"We had an insurance agent come in one day, but at the time it was just way out of our reach. And we never really checked back into it," he said.



Catherine and Anthony Bennett, owners of Baker Grill in Macclenny, have lacked health insurance for eight years.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

As details of plans available through the federal exchange become available, Mr. Bennett said he will consider them.

Today, however, he says he knows little to nothing about health-care reform or how it will impact him and his family.

"If it's within our reach, we'll get insurance," he said. "I see a lot of doctor visits in our future. Annual visits are very impor-

tant for people our age."

Mr. Sheppard, 50, of Sanderson and his wife are also small business owners. He's a consultant and she owns two party stores. They've lacked health insurance since Mr. Sheppard lost his job two years ago.

"We looked into buying it but it was just outrageous — \$550 to \$600 a month for the

minimum things," he said.

Not being covered hasn't been a huge burden thus far for the Sheppards, either. But if something catastrophic happened, Mr. Sheppard expects it would "wipe them out."

"We'd have to cash out of our businesses," he said.

Like Mr. Bennett, Mr. Shep-

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

How should B. C. commissioners vote on the proposed zip line park, which generated some opposition from neighboring property owners?

67% Yes
25% No
8% Undecided

Visit our website and vote each week in our online poll.

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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.

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Kudos for approving zip line park idea

On Point In Print

Joel Addington

One of the most frequent complaints I've heard from adults and children alike about Baker County is its lack of fun, family-friendly activities.

It usually sounds something like this: "Why don't we have a movie theatre or a bowling alley? It's no wonder our kids get into mischief, there's no skating rink or go-karts."

I'm sure all those things will come to the area in due time. Perhaps after a few decades pass, and growth from Jacksonville pushes further west, we will see the chain restaurants and shops, big city amusement options and cookie-cutter subdivisions. Then, Baker County will look much like the rest of Florida.

Today, however, Mark and Allison Broughton have plans to develop a 20-acre zip line park across from the state hospital, and I thought county residents would be delighted to have a family-fun activity so close to home.

Turns out there were some detractors worried about the park ruining their peace and quiet, the hallmark of living in the country. After all, that's what draw many people here.

The opposition took me off guard, nonetheless. During the Great Recession, when development ground to a halt, I'd almost forgotten about the "not in my backyard" attitude that

small communities often exhibit to changes.

In the boom years, it was more common. When new development, whether it be additional homes, hotels or mud bogs, sought approvals, the

not-in-my-back-yarders would emerge to decry the project's traffic or noise or ugliness.

It appears the economy is improving and the protectionist, anti-growth instincts have re-emerged, mostly among

neighbors of the planned zip line park.

Resistance to mining, of any kind, I understand. The zip line park — a recreational activity with little to no environmental impacts and the potential to

draw visitors and their money here — well, it's a no-brainer.

Kudos to the county commission for listening to the few but vocal critics, and approving the park project this week. See next week's edition for details.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Volunteers were truly 'All-Stars'

Dear Editor:

Baker County Little League just finished up 2 1/2 weeks of hosting All-Star softball teams from all over north and central Florida, in both district and sectional tournaments.

Fans, coaches and players' parents from those teams had high praise for the remarkable successful completion of more than thirty games, despite nine inches of rain including the remnants of a tropical storm that made the fields a boggy quagmire of clay.

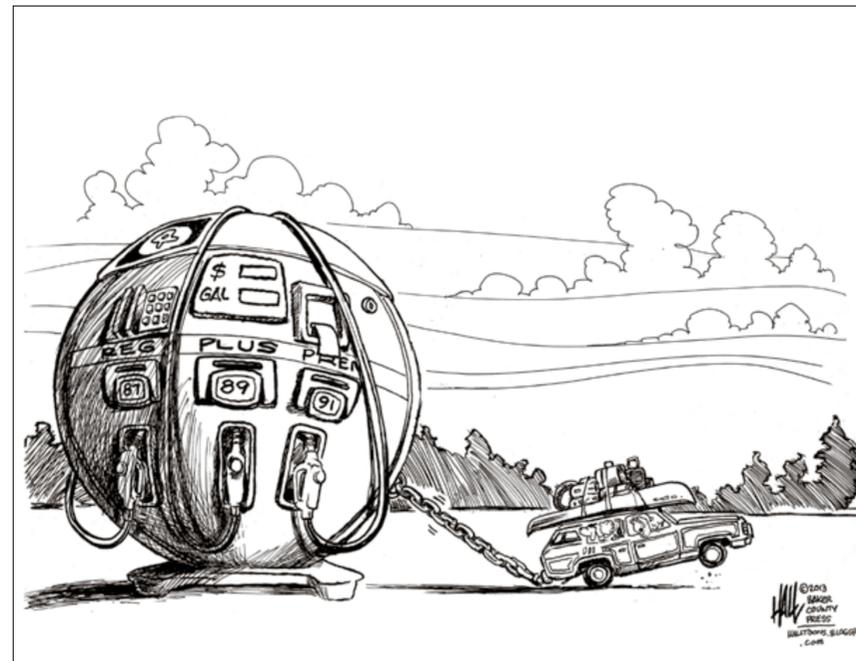
That success would not have been possible without the hard work of a core group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to insure the fields were in playable condition every day.

To name all the people who demonstrated their commitment to carrying on the long tradition of excellent hospitality that BCLL is known for throughout the Little League community in Florida would be nearly impossible. From the Baker County Recreation Department, to the sheriff's department, concession workers, the umpires and district tournament people and the field crews. Every single person made a key contribution.

There were two people who earned special recognition for their efforts. Billy Sullivan spent untold hours moving water off the fields and grooming them into playing condition after the daily torrential downpours. Les Stone, owner of Stone Transport, generously opened his warehouse on weekends and donated multiple pallets of bags of Quick-Dry to help firm up the muddy fields.

Our league is blessed to be part of such a great community where people still know the value of commitment and dedication. Thanks to all those who truly did "step up to the plate."

Melissa Burnsed
Tournament Director
Baker County Little League



Up close and personal with Miss Florida

I must say I was up to my sash in beauty pageants this past weekend. I'm not a beauty pageant kind of guy, but I might as well have been.

As "guy in charge" of all things technical at the high school auditorium, I set up the lights and sound for the Forestry Pageant. Meanwhile, a couple of hundred miles away, a much bigger pageant was going on that I was following with great interest.

My wife Kelley and son Spencer were in St. Petersburg for the Miss Florida pageant. Girls from all over the state were vying for the title of Miss Florida and a chance to represent the state at the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City in September.

So, why do I have a dog in this hunt?

Simple. Spencer's girlfriend Myrrhanda Jones was Miss Palm Coast and in the running

for the title. Spencer had spent much of the weekend cheering her on through the preliminaries and the swimsuit, talent and platform competitions.

Myrrhanda, a real sweetie, had been preparing for some time. She was at our house a few weeks ago. We like to eat, and when we all get together we cook a lot of stuff. It was all lost on her, however.

"Myrrhanda is in pageant mode," Spencer explained. "She has a very strict diet."

"What, does she only eat nuts and berries like a bear?"

"Kind of. Today is my fruit day," she said. "I can only eat fruit. Tomorrow is my vegetable day."

"I don't suppose you have an ice cream and brownie day."

"I wish." Kelley scared up some melon and pineapple and bananas for her.

Myrrhanda was moving right along through the prelim-

inaries. She had done well in the swimsuit competition and her platform was right up near the top.

Every contestant has a platform, a cause they support, and she has a great one. She has a non-profit called Comfort for Kids, which furnishes stuffed animals to seriously ill children. Her stuffed animals have raised over half a million dollars to support Children's Miracle Network.

She also has a patent pending on a device to help make ATVs safer. She was in a terrible accident that killed her sister when she was 12. The device has a built-in level in case of an ATV flip. It detects the roll and automatically dials five numbers. The first is 911. It has a GPS locator to guide police and rescue to the scene of the accident. The other four numbers can be programmed in.

Kelley and Spencer had a real case of nerves about the talent competition with the biggest point total. Myrrhanda is a Gatorette captain and twirls at an amazing rate. She had three batons flying through the air while she spun around three times. They were rolling across her shoulders and neck while she ducked and dodged — it's pretty impressive.

The judges must have thought so too, because she won the competition. It began to dawn on us that she had a real chance of winning.

I'm teaching summer school at the high school so I had to rely on texts to keep up with the latest news. Sure enough, she made the top ten, in the running for the crown.

On Saturday night, she was picked to go first in all the events. She nailed her talent on the big stage, looked great in swimsuit and evening wear, and made it through to the top five.

Spencer was a nervous wreck as she came closer and closer. At one point he looked at his mom and said, "You know, she just might win this

thing."

The judges started weeding down the competition. When Miss Duval County, who Kelley considered her top opponent, went fourth runner-up, they were on the edge of their seat. Third, second — now it was Myrrhanda and a girl from St. Augustine.

Bam! Fireworks and fanfare — she won! Spencer and Kelley were so busy hugging that they forgot to take pictures of her being crowned and sashed.

On to Atlantic City. We're making travel arrangements.

Son Dylan brought up a good point. "If Myrrhanda is Miss Florida, doesn't that make Spencer Mr. Florida?"

Strangely enough, this is not my family's first foray into Miss America. Back in the dim days of the pageant, my dad, who was a jazz musician, played in the band in Atlantic City.

In those days it was less highly controlled and he got to chat up a lot of the girls, including winner Bess Meyerson, who he always claimed was just as sweet as she was beautiful.

FACEBOOK FANS 'What you had to say ...'

Reactions to the Zimmerman verdict ...

George Zimmerman was found not guilty last weekend of murdering Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old he shot during an altercation in Sanford last year. We asked readers for their thoughts on the outcome of the high-profile trial. Here's what they had to say:

Scott Shannon: [Zimmerman] should have never been charged in the first place.

Melody Carver Langford: I disagree with it. Entire confrontation could have been eliminated if [Zimmerman] would have stayed in his car. Sorry a 17-year-old boy had to lose his life.

Tricia Martin: The prosecution's case was weak at best. If this had originally gone to a grand jury I don't believe there would have been a trial. Instead we allow the court of public opinion to pressure the prosecution into bringing charges. I believe the system worked how it was designed.

Greg Sheppard: Finally a jury who looked at all aspects of the evi-

dence and made the right decision.

Chris White Harvin: Maybe he shouldn't have gotten out of his vehicle, but there is no law that says he shouldn't have. The man defended his life! He did not break any laws. He should have never been arrested! Learn the law people.

Samantha Mann: He followed an innocent child, provoked a confrontation and when the victim fought back he shot and killed him. No justice in this case! It amazes me that people don't see the basic principles. Clayton Yarbrough: It's not about principles, it's about the law and Zimmerman broke no laws. If anyone follows you, and you attack them, then you can be charged as well.

Jenepher King: He was told by 911 to leave the boy alone. If you had a strange man come after you, don't you think you'd fight for your life, also?

Cyndi Stirling: This was a tragic incident that could have been prevented by both parties. My sympathies to Trayvon's parents for their loss and congrats to Zimmerman for his exoneration. Both parties have suffered loss and both are responsible. Trayvon lost his life and Zimmerman has too. He will never be able to

live a normal life no matter the outcome. We as parents are responsible for our children until they turn 18 and if something happens to them then we as parents should be held accountable for it. He was far from a kid. He was a young man with a lot of time on his hands. He was already in trouble and causing trouble, he should have been at home that time of the night and not out walking the streets.

Cynthia Taylor Maxwell: We are so quick to judge and form our own opinions about other people's situations. Yes it's true that we have freedom of speech. We are free to express our opinions, and we are free to post them on Facebook. But sometimes we don't need to, because no matter how much freedom we have, words hurt. We are alive today but none of us knows what tomorrow holds. Today it's Trayvon, but tomorrow it could be your child or mine.

Covey Paige: After reading the majority of these comments, I can honestly say that I am elated that I no longer live in Baker County. I see a lot of people still live and think inside the box.

Adrian Williams: Bottom line is it's not right for anyone to be shot and killed by anybody for any reason. The facts are that George Zimmerman was a criminal record too, so why is Trayvon Martin the only one being called a thug?

Join the discussion on Facebook by searching The Baker County Press and liking our page.

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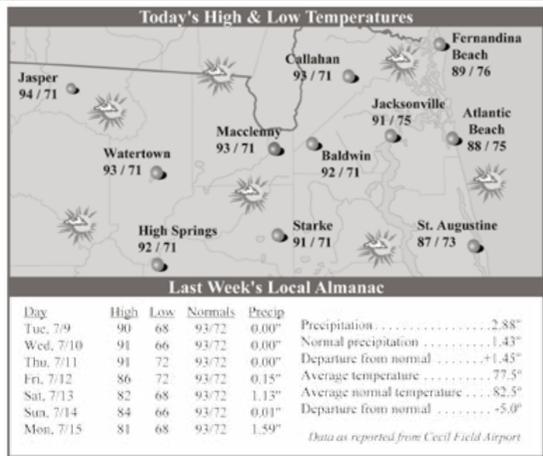
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The Baker County Press Weather

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



Sun/Moon Chart This Week table with columns for Day, Sunrise, and Sunset, plus a section for St. Mary's River Levels and Hunting/Fishing Times.

PRIME ADVERTISING REAL ESTATE advertisement with subtext 'BOOST YOUR BUSINESS BY ADVERTISING HERE WEEK AFTER WEEK' and contact information for The Baker County Press.

Small business owners among the uninsured

From page 1
pard is taking the wait-and-see approach on healthcare reform.

Implementing 'Obamacare'
Though the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare," is now more than three years old...

Other parts of the law — cost-free preventative care, a prohibition against denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions...

Yet other provisions, including the penalty for large employers not offering coverage to full-time workers, have been delayed until 2015.

Regardless, nearly one-fifth of Baker County residents are not covered by health insurance, according to the Florida Department of Health...

Research published by the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy in Tallahassee last month shows the anticipated cost of coverage for an average enrollee in the federal exchange based on income...

The projected costs were gleaned from one insurer which did share its rates with state's Office of Insurance Regulation...

It also included the maximum costs at varying incomes, which fluctuated from \$230 at the lower income level to \$923 at the higher end.

Those restrictions may work in Sheppard's favor. They spend about \$2400 a year on medications to manage various conditions.

Mr. Sheppard said he's still wary about participating in the federal exchange, at least anytime soon. Instead, he's awaiting a quote from a private company in Clearwater that appears to have the most affordable rates he's seen.

Similar to the exchange for individuals and families, enrollment in the Small Business Health Options Program or SHOP exchange begins October 1 with coverage starting January 1.

According to www.healthcare.gov, the federal website where individuals and small business owners will be able to compare and purchase coverage...

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Those restrictions may work in Sheppard's favor. They spend about \$2400 a year on medications to manage various conditions.

erage they offer and how much they contribute to the costs.

They may also be eligible for small business healthcare tax credits for up to 35 percent of the employer contribution. That provision is effective today.

While uninsured low- and middle-income Americans will have the benefit of federal subsidies to make private health insurance more affordable...

Currently, Medicaid eligibility is restricted to low-income mothers and mothers-to-be. Childless individuals do not qualify regardless of income.

After Obamacare was challenged in court by a number of states, the Supreme Court ruled to uphold most of the law's provisions but struck down a man-

datory expansion of Medicaid to individuals up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$15,800 in annual income.

The court's decision made it optional for the states to expand the program, and state leaders here decided against it, saying they feared federal funding would be pulled in the future.

Governor Rick Scott eventually reversed his stance against expansion after hospital groups lobbied for it. Hospitals stand to lose considerable sums to uncompensated care if the legislature continues to refuse to expand Medicaid.

Florida CHAIN, a consumer health advocacy organization, estimates there are 700,000 childless adults in Florida with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, \$11,490, who will not qualify for Medicaid and not qualify for subsidies to purchase insurance on the exchange.

For additional information about healthcare reform, please visit the following sites online:

- Find out if you're affected at kff.org/infographic/the-requirement-to-buy-coverage-under-the-affordable-care-act/
• Key dates: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/timeline/index.html
• www.healthcare.gov.

stallation. After the mining operation ends the company would transfer ownership of 375 acres to the city.

The pact with the city, which has received the support of state environmental authorities and the county's planning and zoning department, was a factor in the LPA's recommendation for approval.

Ed Preston, planning and zoning director, told the LPA board and the county commission that his office recommended the mining plans be approved. He said the application met all the criteria in the county's comprehensive plan and land development regulations.

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MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Tables annexing materials yard

MIKE ANDERSON PRESS STAFF

Noise, dust and heavy truck traffic are nuisances that homeowners in the quiet Macclenny II subdivision say they don't want on the edge of their neighborhood just outside the city limits south of Interstate 10 near SR 121.

Several residents from the neighborhood drove home that point to the Macclenny Commission the evening of July 9 during a public hearing to consider annexing and zoning a 6-acre parcel for industrial use by a local road construction firm.

"They would be right at my back door," Henry Denley, whose home at 4239 Tom Norman Road is directly adjacent to the proposed industrial site, told commissioners. "I'd have a problem selling my house with a construction company behind me."

The rectangular parcel, located between Tom Norman Road and Estates Street, is presently zoned by the county as timberland residential. It would be classified as industrial on the city's future land use map and zoned as industrial warehouse if the proposed annexation ordinance is approved.

David Burnham, owner of Burnham Construction Co. in Macclenny, told commissioners he plans to buy the property and use it initially to store road construction materials, including aggregates, lime rock and asphalt, to be loaded each morning and hauled to various job sites.

Presently, his office building is located on South 7th Street adjacent to CSX railroad tracks, but his heavy equipment and construction materials are stored elsewhere between jobs.

He said he wants to consolidate his business and have a place where all 34 of his employees can work at one location, though most of them would have their trucks loaded and headed for job sites between 6-8 a.m.

"There would be 10 to 15 people, tops, working there full time,"

Seeking compromise to placate neighbors



PHOTO BY JOEL ANANDARAJAN

One of the many city rezoning signs that surround the 6 acres in Macclenny II.

he said, adding that he's a proponent of free enterprise and private property rights but that "a lot of people have put a lot of money into nice homes in Macclenny II."

"From a planning standpoint maybe that's not even something that should be considered," he told commissioners.

Jimmy Wingate, who also owns a home on Birch Street, told commissioners that he works in the Jacksonville Building and Zoning Department and knows that it's quite unusual to have commercial property directly adjacent to residential property.

"Everything in there is residential," Mr. Wingate said, "and this would be industrial, not commercial. It seems like you could find a better place for it."

With its county-designated zoning as timberland residential, city officials pointed out that a trailer park could go in there if the land stays in the county. That didn't seem to bother the half a dozen or so protesters in the audience.

"I'd rather see 50 mobile homes than industrial (activity)," Mr. Wingate said, noting that front end loaders, bulldozers and other heavy equipment operating early in the morning would not be

and the county commission that his office recommended the mining plans be approved. He said the application met all the criteria in the county's comprehensive plan and land development regulations.

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Sand mine denied by board ...

From page 1

stallation. After the mining operation ends the company would transfer ownership of 375 acres to the city.

The pact with the city, which has received the support of state environmental authorities and the county's planning and zoning department, was a factor in the LPA's recommendation for approval.

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a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

"It's true that equipment would be loaded sometimes as early as 6 a.m.," Mr. Burnham said. "There will be some noise, but not full time, not hours on end."

Mayor Gary Dopson admitted to being tagged in different directions. On the one hand, he said he would like to help Mr. Burnham with his business plans, but on the other hand he said he "has a little bit of heartburn about putting commercial next door to residential."

City Manager Phil Rhoden will invite Mr. Burnham and other interested homeowners to meet with him at city hall to discuss the matter further to see if their concerns could be addressed and, hopefully, resolved. The easiest way to accomplish that, he said, would be in a PUD.

"We may be creative in this," Mr. Rhoden said.

In addition to agreeing to leave a buffer of trees standing to shield his proposed business from neighbors, Mr. Rhoden said, Mr. Burnham has also offered to work with the city to pave Tom Norman Road.

Mr. Burnham said during the July 9 hearing that his employees and his company trucks would only use Tom Norman Road when arriving and leaving work. No traffic would be generated by his company on Estates Street, he said.

Eventually, commissioners voted to table the annexation hearing until after both sides of the controversy have met with the city manager in an effort to reach a compromise.

"We want to keep you and any other local businesses we can," Mayor Dopson told Mr. Burnham. "However, we have to adhere to certain standards."

The hearing is tentatively scheduled to resume on August 13. If approved at that time, a final vote on the measure would be set for September 10.

Women's Parade advertisement for Saturday, July 20, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at Calendar's Pizza, US 90 & College St., Macclenny. Includes a list of vendors like Thirty-One, Scentsy, etc.

HAYDAY VBS is here! advertisement for The Lord's Church in Taylor for Vacation Bible School. Weekend farm fun is July 19 - July 21 from 4-8:00 pm. Let's get MOOOoving for Jesus!



Collaborative Cardiovascular Care is The Key to Success at First Coast Cardiovascular Institute

Your cardiovascular health is no longer a one-man show; these days it takes a village of specialists to keep your ticker ticking!

It used to be that the general practitioner took care of all our medical needs. That was more than 50 years ago. Since then, the revolution in cardiovascular medicine and technology has made it possible for one cardiologist to handle all patients' needs.

Although cardiology is a relatively narrow field, advancements have swiftly progressed, furthering specialties in order for physicians to keep pace with medical innovation. Dr. Ali, Vice President at FCGI, summarizes the secrets for a successful practice in "the rule of 3 T's": Talent, Tenacity, and Tools.

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute® (FCCI) recognized early on the importance of this continuous transition and progress. In fact, the senior partners, Drs. Yazan Khatib, Vagar Ali, Sumant Lamba and Youssef Al-Saghir, introduced many of those specialties to the larger in-county area.

"We see the integration of 15 diverse board certifications and accredited services in one cohesive group as a proud milestone. We are also constantly collaborating with colleagues in other specialties for the betterment of overall healthcare in our beloved First Coast," says Dr. Youssef Al-Saghir, Director of Clay County FCGI operations.

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JACKSONVILLE 904.493.3333
ORANGE PARK 904.644.0092
ST. AUGUSTINE 904.436.6420

www.firstcoastcardio.com
Everyday victories.

UNCLAIMED BOND MONEY advertisement from The Baker County Sheriff's Office. Lists bond amounts for various dates and provides contact information for the Sheriff's Office.

ANYTIME FITNESS advertisement for a beach body. Features a couple walking on a beach and lists offers: \$1 Enrollment Fee, 2 Free Tanning Sessions, and \$3 Off Monthly Fees. Includes address and phone number.

MOVIE IN THE PARK advertisement for a movie screening on July 26 at 8:00 PM at Macclenny Memorial Park. Includes details about the event, ticket prices, and contact information.

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute advertisement. Includes a list of services, contact information for various locations, and the slogan 'Everyday victories.'

Man brandishes knife Possibly during sour drug deal

Police arrested a Macclenny man and charged him with aggravated assault by pulling a knife on another man the afternoon of July 12 while at an address on CR 139B west of Glen St. Mary.

Willie Dempsey Jr., 23, told Deputy Koty Crews that Michael Waters Jr., 25, threatened him with a shovel about 3:40 after he went to the latter's residence seeking \$100 he claimed was owed to him.

Mr. Waters insisted that Mr. Dempsey came to his address attempting to sell him an ounce of cocaine, and that he picked up the shovel in self-defense after the accused brandished the knife and threatened to kill him. Mr. Waters added that Mr. Dempsey accused him of being a "snitch."

Mr. Waters' version was backed by Emily Barton, 20, and her mother Catina Barton, 40, both of whom also reside at the address.

Eilene Combs, 33, was with Mr. Dempsey when they were stopped by police after the elder Ms. Barton called police, and initially backed his version of events. Later, she recanted and said she was not with him, but was picked up after the incident.

Deputy Crews said Ms. Combs permitted officers to search her Pierce Rd. residence and vehicle, and both the knife and a baggie of cocaine were found in an adjacent yard.

In another case, criminal complaints for aggravated assault were filed on July 8 against Charles Hadley, 58, and Cody Hutson, 18, both of Macclenny at a confrontation with Thomas Braddy, 22, of Macclenny at a residence on Eagle Dr.

Cashed counterfeit checks

The sheriff's department arrested an Olustee woman and her boyfriend from Lake City on July 11 and charged them with being part of a counterfeit check cashing ring that struck several branches of First Federal Bank of Florida that day, including the Macclenny location on South 6th.

A third suspect in the local case, Miquelle "Tiki" Jones, 37, of Olustee, is being sought.

Antonette Robinson, 20, of Olustee and her boyfriend Antonio Thomas, 26, of Lake City, were charged with felony fraud after they were questioned at county jail by investigators from Baker and Columbia counties, along with the U.S. Secret Service.

Ms. Wood was also aware that at least five other similar checks had turned up at other First Federal branches in Columbia and Suwannee counties.

Ms. Robinson told Investigator Chris Volz she was approached by Ms. Jones, who is her cousin, and asked if she wanted to make some cash by

DUI driver had illegal drugs

A woman reported to police by other motorists for reckless driving in the vicinity of Glen St. Mary the afternoon of July 10 was arrested for drunk driving and named in a complaint for possession of two kinds of controlled drugs.

Deputy Matt Riegel said he got behind a 2000 Ford dual-axle pickup driven by Vicky Singleton, 55, of Glen based on earlier descriptions and observed it southbound on CR 125, where the pickup veered onto the right shoulder several times, then across the center line.

Ms. Singleton appeared unsteady on her feet with slurred speech, and failed to pass field sobriety tests. She initially gave the deputy a false name, and her true identity was determined via a vehicle registration and matching license photo.

Deputy Riegel learned that her license was revoked for failure to submit a medical report and charged her with driving without a license.

She was also charged with refusal to submit to sobriety testing, not wearing a seat belt and failure to maintain a single lane.

The deputy noted that Ms. Singleton was in possession of amphetamine and anti-anxiety medication contained in a pill vial with someone else's name on it.

In other arrests, Ezekial Register Jr., 48, of Glen was charged with disorderly intoxication the morning of July 12 shortly after he attempted to enter the residence of Romona Robinson on South 9th St. in Macclenny.

Ms. Robinson told Deputy Robert Simpkins that Mr. Register was knocking on her door and windows about 7:40 am. When the officer arrived, he found the suspect standing in the middle of 9th St. with his clothing in disarray.

The deputy noted that Mr. Register became unruly when taken to county jail, where he was served with a warrant from Gulf County for failure to pay child support.

He claimed he wanted entry to Ms. Robinson's house to smoke marijuana with her.

Deputy Michael Clark arrested Lisa Harris, 21, of Macclenny at the home of her mother Rhonda Knowles in Pine Oak Cir. trailer park off SR 121 south.

The mother called police because Ms. Harris was intoxicated and wanting to stay with her, and told Deputy Clark she evicted her several months ago due to drug and alcohol abuse.

She was charged with disorderly conduct.

Goes amok after he is denied his medication

The sheriff's department filed multiple charges against a north county man who went berserk at the Macclenny Walgreen Pharmacy the afternoon of July 13 when informed his prescription would not be filled.

Store employees told Deputy Tony Norman that James Simpson, 40, of Sanderson cursed loudly and swept merchandise off shelves about 5:30 when a pharmacist insisted she needed permission from his physician to dispense an unspecified medication.

The pharmacist said at one point Mr. Simpson attempted to force his way into her department to make good on an earlier threat over the telephone to "kick her a**." Another employee told the deputy the suspect grabbed an item off a shelf and threw it at her when she ordered him to leave.

Walmart's store security employee told Deputy Hodges he saw the women get into a grey Toyota passenger car with a temporary license tag. It was driven by a black male wearing a white tank top, but police were unable to locate it.

In other Walmart cases, Brea Hill, 21, of Lake City was arrested the evening of July 12 for attempting to leave the store without paying for \$19 worth of pajamas and shorts. She was observed about 9 pm placing the items in a purse.

William Clark, 42, of Glen St. Mary was arrested in the late morning of July 9 after he was seen placing two flashlights in pants pockets and donning two T-shirts before trying to leave the store.

Value of the merchandise was \$91.

At nearby Murphy Oil, a white male wearing black shorts and no shirt ran north on CR 228 shortly after he was seen taking three movies.

A clerk followed him out and the suspect returned the movies, then ran off. The driver of a Chrysler van that he approached after leaving the store told the clerk he was unaware of incident.

The suspect was described as a black female clad in a pink shirt and black pants.

Both of the employees who were sprayed were female, and one of them told Deputy Hodges she confronted the suspect as she approached the last point of sale about 10:40 and asked to see a receipt. The woman then pulled a can of pepper spray from a shirt pocket and administered a dose to the employee's face.

As the employee pulled the shopping cart away and ran back into the store, her assailant continued spraying her, then turned the can on the second employee before fleeing.

Both of the workers declined medical assistance at the scene.

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Fleeing shoplifter hits two workers with pepper spray

A shoplifter attempting to leave the Walmart in Macclenny with three televisions and clothing the morning of July 13 doused two employees with pepper spray as they attempted to stop her from exiting through the garden center.

One of the employees was able to wrestle a shopping cart away from the suspect and recover the merchandise valued at \$866, and told Deputy Johnny Hodges the shoplifter followed her back into the store and continued spraying her in an attempt to get the cart back.

The suspect was described as a black female clad in a pink shirt and black pants.

Both of the employees who were sprayed were female, and one of them told Deputy Hodges she confronted the suspect as she approached the last point of sale about 10:40 and asked to see a receipt. The woman then pulled a can of pepper spray from a shirt pocket and administered a dose to the employee's face.

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Semi rig, trailer stolen Parked behind Exxon on 121

A semi tractor-trailer parked behind the Exxon Store on South 6th St. in Macclenny south of Interstate 10 was apparently stolen sometime during a 28-hour period ending the evening of July 14.

Driver Derrick Carter of Macclenny told Deputy Tony Norman he parked the rig about 5:15 pm the previous day and returned the following evening about 9:40 to find it had been taken.

The 2013 Peterbilt tractor and 2008 refrigerated Great Dane trailer belonged to Wisconsin-based Royal Express.

In other vehicle-related thefts, a surveillance video from nearby Baker Beverage depicted a white female entering two vehicles parked overnight at a residence at W. Macclenny Ave. (US 90) and 7th St. on July 14.

Later that afternoon police were called when Sean Robbins of Jacksonville found his 2005 Ford pickup ransacked and a .38 caliber pistol missing. Kaylee White, who lives at the address, told Deputy Chad Montean that personal papers and identification were lifted from her 1997 Chevrolet.

The video depicted the suspect exiting from a white passenger car that morning between 3-4:30 am.

Beki Delp of Sanderson reported to county deputy Trey McCullough on July 13 that a camera and other items valued at \$114 were taken from her 2005 Ford SUV during the early morning hours of June 25.

When the officer inquired about the delay in reporting, Ms. Delp replied that she was unfamiliar with the process.

Charles Spitzer called police on July 5 when he discovered property missing from his former residence on Ashley Ct. near Macclenny and currently under foreclosure.

The items included a weeder, blower, amplifier, jacks and autographed balls with a total value of \$430.

An iPod and headphones valued at \$300 were taken from the residence of William Hand on Ivy St. in Macclenny during the evening hours of July 8.

Deputy Earl Lord said he interviewed one of the persons the owner named as suspects, and he denied involvement.

Ms. Zajkowski and a neighbor who lives in an adjacent trailer at Dixie Trailer Park told Deputy Robert Simpkins that Mr. Hubbard grabbed the victim by the arm, then punched her in the face before leaving on a bicycle.

The suspect was located at the county courthouse shortly after and said he cycled there to inquire about a restraining order because the ex-girlfriend has a drug problem and he wanted her to move out.

He denied striking Ms. Zajkowski and denied arguing with her the previous evening, an event that allegedly led up to the physical confrontation. Deputy Simpkins noted that Mr. Hubbard appeared to be intoxicated when interviewed at the courthouse.

Ms. Sessions was driving on a license with five suspensions.

The officer parked on the roadside, and shortly after noon stopped the vehicle when it reentered CR 125. In the meantime, Deputy Crews learned that Mr. Stokes' license had three suspensions for failure to pay fines and child support.

In other similar arrests, a chronic license offender was jailed after Deputy Chris Walker saw him driving on MLK the afternoon of July 11.

The officer said he was aware of the status of the license of Anthony Gray, 38, of Macclenny with its 15 suspensions for failure to pay fines and failure to appear in court.

Deputy Walker arrested Reginald Keith, 26, of Macclenny the morning of July 10 after spotting him driving a 2003 Chevrolet on CR 127 north of Sanderson.

The officer said he was aware that Mr. Keith did not possess a valid license.

Deputy Jeremiah Combs stopped a 2001 Chevrolet pickup driven by Johnathan Mann, 22, of Sanderson after noting it had no tag light on SR 229 south in the late evening of July 13.

Mr. Mann's ten license suspensions are for offenses ranging from failure to submit to a breath or urine test to failure to pay child support and traffic fines.

The same officer arrested Brian Sessions, 42, of Baldwin on Reid Stafford Rd. south of Sanderson about 3 am on July 14 after

noting his 1997 Chevrolet pickup had an expired tag.

Mr. Sessions was driving on a license with five suspensions.

The officer parked on the roadside, and shortly after noon stopped the vehicle when it reentered CR 125. In the meantime, Deputy Crews learned that Mr. Stokes' license had three suspensions for failure to pay fines and child support.

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BAKER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

\$50.8M in spending proposed

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Taxpayers, students, teachers and administrators all could be winners if the Baker County school district's tentative budget remains largely unchanged.

Though still in draft form, the \$50.8 million spending plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year was unveiled by school district finance chief Marcelle Richardson the afternoon of July 15.

Mrs. Richardson began her presentation before the school board with a warning, however, saying, "This (the budget) will change."

It was something she would repeat throughout her review of the draft budget, which reflects an 8.2 percent growth in overall spending.

Part of the increase was attributed to higher contributions for employee pensions, which jumped about \$360,000, and raises for teachers, both of which were mandated by the state.

The tentative spending plan also anticipates using some \$4.1 million from reserves to the balance total expenditures. There's about \$10.3 million in reserve to day. The school board balanced

Local tax rate drops

this year's budget by dipping into reserves as well.

"We don't spend all that we budget, or we don't get all the revenue we expected," Mrs. Richardson told the panel, cautioning them against taking the proposed budget too literally.

Absent from the budget workshop was school board member Jesse Davis.

The good news for students and teachers is that the draft budget shows boosted per student spending from the state, which will give the district about \$865,000 more for local classrooms. Most of the increase — some \$800,000 — is earmarked for teacher salary increases passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor.

Property owners could also benefit from the new budget since it reduces school taxes by more than 5 percent from the previous year.

"This is not a tax increase," declared Mrs. Richardson.

The property tax, or millage, rate announced this week, though still unofficial, was 7.357

mills, which is equivalent to \$7.35 per \$1000 of taxable value.

A home valued at \$100,000, for instance, would pay \$735 in school district levies, in addition to city, county, water management district and hospital authority taxes.

The proposed tax rate is the lowest in at least 17 years. It's also 4.6 percent less than the current rate and 6.2 percent less than the so-called "rolled-back rate," or the rate that would generate the same dollar amount in tax proceeds as the previous year.

The school district, meanwhile, will lose nearly \$360,000 in local tax revenue if the tentative rate is adopted by the school board. That's about 5.5 percent less than the sum raised this year.

Mrs. Richardson's budget presentation also showed board members, who remained silent for most of the review, the list of capital outlay projects expected for the coming budget year.

The district has allotted \$3.1 million for capital outlay for big-ticket purchases and construction work. Among the projects:

• Replacing heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) in the high school gym, band room and building 1 (\$500,000).

• Replacing eight HVAC units on the roof of Keller Intermediate School (\$40,000).

• The stage at the football field used for graduation (\$60,000). Mrs. Richardson said the current stage is difficult to assemble, and the money will address that.

• Replacing the roofs of the Keller Intermediate media center (\$200,000), middle school music building (\$200,000) and middle school gym (\$300,000).

• Equipment and hardware (\$450,000) for schools. Mrs. Richardson called this line item a "high priority" that includes new computers and upgrades to existing computers, among other work.

• Five new buses (\$520,000). Mrs. Richardson said the county's network of dirt roads wreaks havoc on the chassis of school buses, reducing their useful life.

"We've been buying three a year, but we really need to be replacing five every year," she said.

The tentative tax, or millage, rate will be advertised next week. The school board must adopt the 2013-14 budget by September 30. The next public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rate is scheduled for July 29 at 5:15 pm at 270 South Blvd. in Macclenny.

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'Training' his strong suit

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The county's new fire chief doesn't come from a family of firefighters. He attributes his interest in the field to a childhood fascination with his uncle's model antique fire engines.

"I was always attracted to them, but I couldn't touch them," said Steven Marfongella, 44, during an interview with The Press the morning of July 9, after less than two weeks on the job.

At 12 years old he joined a fire service explorers group at school. After that, he says, "it got into the blood."

The new fire chief is originally from Cleveland, OH, but bounced between there and Southwest Florida most of his youth before settling in Hillsborough County in 1985.

After high school, he became a volunteer firefighter with the county for 3-4 years before moving to Naples, FL in Collier County where he continued his volunteer service through 1998.

Following paramedic and EMT training, he spent the next decade as a full-time firefighter with the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District, also in Naples.

He left there for teaching positions in the Fort Myers area at a community college, and later, the Lee County School District.

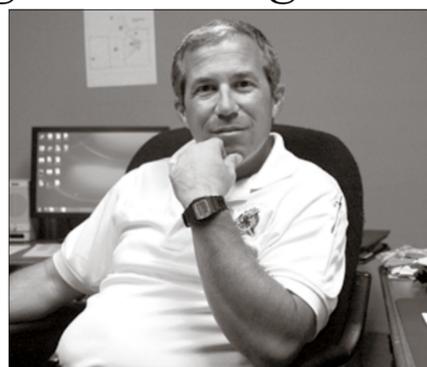
"I'll admit it," said the fire chief. "I was a little burnt out. The major problem was there's not a lot of volunteer departments down south, and in Lee County they were at their cap and weren't accepting volunteers."

After three years with the school district, it was time to return to the field. He checked the state fire chief's association website and found the job posting for the opening here. About two months later, following two interviews and a meet-and-greet with county officials, he accepted the job.

"It all happened pretty fast," said Mr. Marfongella.

The husband and father takes the helm of a department here with 50-plus volunteers manning eight stations responsible for protecting life and property inside a roughly 585-square-mile area. And he's doing so at a time when revenue is falling, retaining firefighters is difficult and the equipment is aging.

"There are issues to deal with — recruiting firefighters, getting more staff. There's some training issues; not that their training is bad, but getting more of it and more hands on stuff," he said. "As an instructor in the fire academy, there's a lot I can teach that they haven't been able to teach in-house. And, obviously, revenue issues. We all have revenue issues."



New chief Steven Marfongella

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

The new chief is very big on training.

He repeated a phrase he heard from a volunteer firefighter here: You train the way you fight. You fight the way you train.

"It holds true," said Mr. Marfongella. "I'm a big fan of training... When the bad stuff happens, you rely on your training, and hope everything goes well," he said.

The fire chief doesn't plan any big changes in the near term, beyond revamping the training regimen. He expects to rely heavily on grants for new equipment, as the county has done in the past, and hopes to boost recruitment and retention, particularly during the day time hours when response to calls are the slowest.

Mr. Marfongella describes his leadership style as "very diplomatic, to a point."

"My door is always open to (volunteers); always," he said. "I will always take their ideas and concerns. Whether I act on those suggestions is up to me. That's my leadership style. I learned a long time ago, if you don't let somebody do the job, you'll never know whether they're capable of doing the job. I've told the firefighters and officers, just because I'm on scene, that doesn't mean I'm in command. I won't leave anybody out there hanging or anything like that. But that's my leadership style. I'm not the dictator, but I'm not like just do whatever you want."

When he's not on the job, Mr. Marfongella is fond of boating,

fishing and water sports; wood working, vegging out with a movie or TV show, and spending time with his wife of 12 years, Dawn, and his son Nick, 15.

His family, along with an 8-year-old golden retriever named Abby and two cats, live in Fort Myers for the time being.

The fire chief has been traveling to see them every other weekend and renting a residence here. His wife, a finance director for a nonprofit organization in South Florida, traveled north for a visit last weekend. After a year or so, they intend to buy a home in North Florida.

Mr. Marfongella was attracted to the \$43,000 a year position because of the rural character of the area and the opportunity to lead a small town department.

"A lot of it was, when we lived in Collier County, for a lack of a better word, it was out in the woods," he said. "It was a rural residential area and I missed it. I miss the quiet."

The camaraderie among firefighters is something he longed for as well.

"I like to help people, and it's so cliché, but it's true," said Mr. Marfongella. "The other side is the family orientation, the brotherhood of firefighters in general. You can walk into any station in the world and it's 'come on in, you want a cup of coffee.'"

Listen to Joel Addington's full 30-minute interview with the fire chief at www.bakercountypress.com.

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MACCLENNY ZONING ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Pool, building setbacks okayed

MIKE ANDERSON | PRESS STAFF

Two Copper Creek homeowners went before Macclenny's Zoning Adjustment Board on the evening of July 15 seeking variances to setback requirements, including one who wanted to have a structure built on his property line, and both left satisfied.

The five-member board granted both requests, one allowing James Bennett to have an in-ground pool installed behind his house at 1109 Copper Field Circle and the other permitting Randy Smith to build a carport-type storage structure attached to his house at 1305 Copper Creek Drive.

The pool project took no more than 10 minutes to approve. Usually, property owners seeking setback variances ask to build closer to the property line than the zoning code allows, but that was not what Mr. Bennett, a district engineer with the Florida Department of Transportation, sought.

He asked to be allowed to put his pool 5 1/2 feet from his house instead of the 10-foot setback called for in the city code because he said his back yard is so small that's the only configuration that would work.

"I could cut the pool (size) in half but then I would just have an oversized bathtub," he told the board. "If it's any smaller it wouldn't even be a functional pool."

Mr. Bennett said he began studying his options for a swimming pool two years ago and had even offered to buy a strip of land from a neighbor to make sure he could meet all setback requirements, but that didn't work out.

He abandoned the idea of enclosing the pool and attaching the structure to his house because he would have had to adhere to a 10-foot side yard setback, the same as his home. Without an enclosure the pool would be considered an auxiliary structure, which is allowed 3 feet from the property line.

Both variances in Copper Creek

"This is my last ditch effort to try to do it," he said, moments before the board unanimously approved his request to shorten the required distance from his pool to his house to 5 1/2 feet.

"The setback is for the protection of the house more than anything else," said board member Bob Lambright. "It has nothing to do with neighbors."

Although the next case also was approved, the 4-1 vote came about 20 minutes after listening to the applicant explain why he felt his proposal would actually be an improvement, and hearing neighbors voice their concerns and objections.

Mr. Smith presently has what he described as "an old black trailer" beside his house, in which he stores an assortment of items including a lawn mower, barbecue grills, bicycles and golf carts. He said the replacement structure would be made of aluminum and "professionally built."

It also would be behind a 6-foot privacy fence and would not be noticeable from the street, as the top of the trailer is, he said, adding it would be "an enhancement to the neighborhood."

Thomas Heffernan, of 1157 Copper Gate Place, shared a different point of view.

"There's already a lot of stuff there cluttering up the neighborhood," Mr. Heffernan said, urging the board to deny the request for fear that approving it would "open it up for other variances to put sheds right up to the property line. That's not the ambience we want."

Mr. Heffernan further stated his concerns

helped prepare city budgets for many years, delivered some good news and some bad news with commissioners. The good news is that for the first time since the national recession hit four or five years ago, tax revenue is moving up, albeit very slightly.

The city's anticipated tax revenue for next year totals \$725,074, which is a mere \$1,016 more than last year's \$724,058.

However, due to declining property values and an unchanged 3.6 mill operating levy, the city's tax revenue has consistently gone down in recent years, she said.

Still, even though tax revenues are finally moving higher, Mrs. Thompson said 2013-14 is shaping up to be "the tightest budget year" she's seen during more than a decade that she's been involved in the city's budget process.

City officials could have chosen an even higher tentative tax rate, up to 4.82 mills with a two thirds vote of the five-member board, or 4.38 mills with a simple majority. But they say the goal is to stick with the same 3.6 mills levied for most of the past 30 years, according to Mayor Gary Dopson.

He said that when he was elected to office 34 years ago the tax rate was the highest allowed by law — 10 mills. State revenue sharing funds helped the city lower the rate and maintain it at 3.6 mills for years, but those state funds have begun to dry up, the mayor said.

Kirk Gravelle, a Jacksonville-based financial executive who lives in Macclenny, told commissioners he understands why they need to "prepare for the worst from a financial planning standpoint."

However, if they must raise taxes they should convincingly communicate to property owners their reasons or be prepared for "political fallout," said Mr. Gravelle, chairman of the Republican Party of Baker County and one of three announced candidates running for the Group 4 seat being vacated by six-term incumbent Dr. Richard Johnson.

"Nobody on this board even wants to think of a tax increase,"

Dr. Dopson responded, adding, however, that some city services likely would have to be cut to avoid adopting a higher rate.

Moments later, the board voted 4-0 to adopt the 4.1 mill tentative rate.

Also during the July 9 meeting commissioners discussed the future of the city's impact fees on new construction projects, which help fund road improvements, law enforcement, fire protection and recreation.

Mr. Rhoden said his office has received requests from developers and builders to cease levying the fees to encourage new commercial and residential construction, which pumps additional tax revenues into city coffers.

He scheduled a meeting with several developers and builders to discuss the request at city hall on July 23. Macclenny businessman and downtown property owner Ed Barber will chair the meeting.

Board members didn't jump at the opportunity to drop fee revenue in the face of a challenging budget. In fact, the mayor said those making the plea "are going to have to show good cause for me to vote to waive our impact fee," though he didn't entirely dismiss the notion.

"I'm willing to look at some innovative ways to work with them," the mayor said. For every new residential building permit issued and every mobile home moved onto a new lot in Macclenny the city levies a \$3,532.75 impact fee. Commercial impact fees vary depending on the square footage of the new businesses.

According to a report presented by Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough, Macclenny issued nine commercial remodeling permits between January 1 and June 30 this year, including the new Tractor Supply, Fraser Hospital, Little Caesars, My Fuel and Faith Baptist Church.

Three permits were issued for new commercial construction: at the hospital, American Enterprise Bank and Macclenny Mower & Saw, while six permits were issued for new residential houses.

City eyes 14% property tax increase

MIKE ANDERSON PRESS STAFF

After receiving a report on new construction permits that should help broaden Macclenny's tax base, city commissioners tentatively approved the city manager's request for a 13.8 percent property tax hike last week.

If the higher rate remains in the 2013-14 budget, which begins October 1, property owners would begin paying 4.1 mills, or \$4.10 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, instead of 3.6 mills.

For example, the owner of a house with a taxable value of \$100,000, after deducting for the homestead exemption, would pay \$410 in city taxes next year instead of \$360, in addition to county government, school district and other taxes.

However, city officials asserted the evening of July 9 that their goal is to find ways to balance the new budget without having to raise taxes if at all possible. The city was mandated by state law to adopt a new tax rate, called millage, and report it to the county tax collector by August 5.

The proposed rate cannot be increased, but it may be decreased before final adoption of the new spending plan for next year. Instead of aiming low and later finding they actually needed more tax revenue, commissioners set the bar high hoping to lower it before a final budget vote.

City Manager Phil Rhoden, after only three months on the job, recommended the tax increase because he said the city is "facing a \$100,000 increase in retirement and insurance costs," in addition to other higher costs of conducting municipal business.

But Mr. Rhoden agreed that he and the city commission "are still going to strive to come in at 3.6 mills."

Commissioner Vernon Bennett, who served alongside Mr. Rhoden for years before he was hired to replace former manager Gerald Dopson in April, quickly supported the recommendation.

"It sounds good to start with to me," Mr. Bennett said.

Melissa Thompson, who has

about how storage sheds and similar structures in the neighborhood could hurt surrounding property values.

"We've all taken a hit over the last several years and a lot of us are already upside down (with mortgage loans exceeding property values)," he said.

Attending his first meeting as the board's newest member, Alex Robinson said he visited Mr. Smith's house the morning before the meeting and his "only concern was the black trailer." He agreed with the applicant that the proposed structure would be "an improvement over the trailer."

Mr. Lambright cast the only vote against the request, saying he felt that Mr. Smith could have his storage structure built 3 feet from the property line rather than directly on it.

The plans call for a slanted roof attached to Mr. Smith's house and supported by poles on the property line 10 feet away. He said a concrete pad was poured all the way to the property line a few months ago and the structure will include a rain gutter that directs water away from his neighbor's yard.

"If it was a building (with walls) I wouldn't want it on the property line either," said Mr. Robinson, an electrical contractor and former county commissioner. But he maintained that an aluminum roof supported by poles is more eye-pleasing than the old black trailer.

Danny Norton, who resides on Copper Ridge Circle, said deed restrictions prohibit certain types of storage facilities in the neighborhood but they are not enforced. Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough said the city does not enforce deed restrictions and there is no "true neighborhood association" in Copper Creek to monitor such things.

All in all, Mr. Norton said, "I'd rather see a lean-to than a shed."

In other business commissioners:

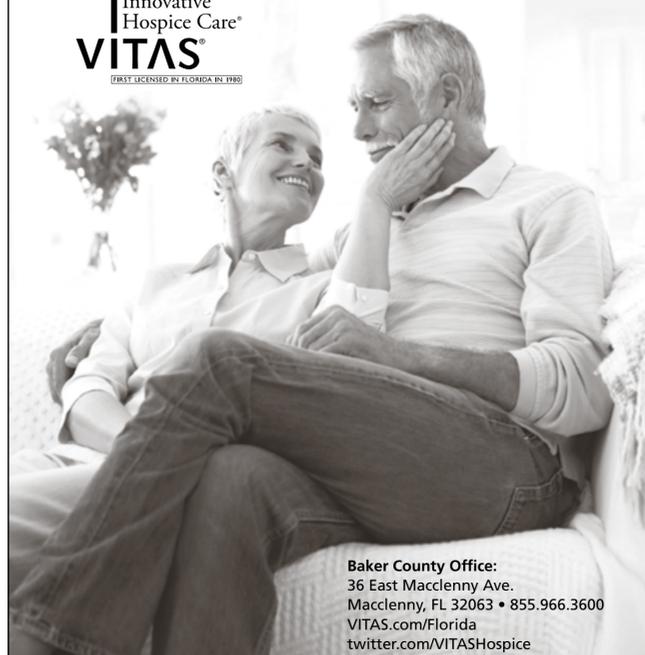
• Scheduled an auction of surplus vehicles and equipment, including a variety of trucks and tractors and lawn mowers, to be conducted jointly with the county at the Macclenny City Yard at 764 Hartline Drive on July 20. Inspections begin at 8 am and bidding starts at 10 am.

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OBITUARIES

Page 10
JULY 18, 2013

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CONTACT US

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Michael Looby, 70, once owned BBQ

Michael J. Looby, 70, of Wylie, Texas and formerly of Macclenny, died on June 19, 2013 after a brief illness. He was born to the late Michael Looby and Anne Burns in Cincinnati, OH on December 12, 1942 and grew up in East Orange, N.J. Mr. Looby was the owner of Lyman Green's BBQ in Macclenny during the 1970s and 1980s, and was well-known as "The Yankee" by his friends.

He is survived by wife Kay of Wylie; sister JoAnne Looby of Whiting, NJ; children Alicia Johns of Tucson, AZ, Michael and Jennifer Looby of Macclenny; their mother Ruth Green of Macclenny; ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by grandson Matthew Looby.

A funeral service was held at Laurel Oaks Funeral Home in Mesquite, TX on June 29.

Dennis Morris, 39, loved the outdoors

Dennis Wayne Morris, 39, of Macclenny died on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. Mr. Morris loved the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. He also loved spending time with his children, family and friends.

He is survived by his parents Charles and Sharon Morris; son Harley Morris; daughter Cheyenne Morris; brother Brock Morris, all of Macclenny; sister Tammy (Chris) Scott of Homerville, GA; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother: Charles J. Morris.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was held at 2 pm Saturday, July 13 at Forbes Funeral Home chapel in Macclenny with Reverend Keith Chauncey officiating.

Jeannie Newhard, funeral Saturday

Jeannie Marie Morgan Newhard, 44, of Live Oak died on July 14, 2013 at Shands at the University of Florida with family by her side. She was born in Jacksonville on June 25, 1969 to Larry Eugene Morgan and Rhea Marie Alford Morgan. Jeannie was raised in Baker County and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Macclenny. She loved being a paramedic and helping others.

Mrs. Newhard worked for Baker County Emergency Medical Services and Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital for many years. She was an EMT and paramedic instructor at Lake City Community College and taught CPR classes for the Baker County Fire Department. Jeannie enjoyed watching QVC, shopping, going to yard sales, making crafts with her children and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by brother Charles Morgan and her father-in-law George Newhard.

She is survived by her loving husband of eight years, David E. Newhard of Live Oak; her parents of Sanderson; children Jasan Luke, Justin Luke, Kierstine Newhard, David L. Newhard and Courtney Newhard; sister Mary Elizabeth and Jeffery Dawson of Macclenny; mother-in-law Barbara Newhard of Live Oak; grandchildren Annabelle Lee and Greycyn Luke; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 20 at 3 pm at her church. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Friday, July 19 from 5-8 pm at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services chapel in Macclenny. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the funeral home to assist with expenses.

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Mr. Register, 82, was tree surgeon in Jacksonville

Tommye Ray Register, 82, of Jacksonville died on Tuesday, July 9, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville following a long illness. He was born in Raiford and resided in Macclenny before moving to Jacksonville in 1958. Mr. Register was a tree surgeon for over 27 years and retired as a foreman with the Jacksonville Parks and Recreational Department in 1986.

He was a member of the New Beginnings Ministry of Jacksonville, the Woodstock Masonic Lodge as a 32nd degree mason, the Shrine Club, Morocco Temple and the Public Employees Labor Union. He also enjoyed farming and gardening. He was the son of the late Daniel Bartow Register and Daisy Hirsch Register.

He is survived by his wife, Imogene Dopsen Register of Jacksonville; son Billy Ray Register and sister-in-law Lettie Register, both of Sanderson; numerous nieces and nephews. The funeral service was held at 11 am on Friday, July 12 at the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny with Pastor David Thomas officiating. Interment was in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Sanderson. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

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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

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 F. Kitching

Community Full Gospel Church
12664 Mud Lake Rd.
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm
Pastor Tommy Richardson | 904-275-2949

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: theramy@gmail.com
We are here to stay! Matthew 28:20

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

First United Methodist Church
Loving God
Loving People
Serving Our Community
Come Join Us
93 N. 5th St. (SR228) Macclenny, FL - Sunday Worship 11am

THE LORD'S CHURCH
Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor + 259-8353
Sunday school - 10:00 am
Sunday service - 11:00 am
Wednesday night Bible Study - 6:30 pm
Family style dinner - 1st Sunday of the month following service
Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

New Hope Church, Inc.
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Faingrounds Rd.
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.

FORBES FUNERAL HOME

Visit our website for helpful resources
www.forbesfuneralhome.net
380 North Lowder St. | Macclenny
259-4600

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
H.M. Hank Forbes, Jr.
Owner/Licensed Funeral Director

Calling All Middle School Students!!!

JOIN US FOR
LOVE IS HERE
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TEMPLE'S 2013 MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
July 29th-August 2nd, 6-9pm
For students entering 6th-9th grade
Register online and get free stuff! www.christianfellowshiptemple.com
Located at 251 West Ohio Ave. in Macclenny!

GUEST SPEAKER: CHAD POE
WORSHIP BY JACOB TYNES AND THE COMMON GROUND BAND



In loving memory of Matthew Looby

07/17/1988-05/12/2012
Happy Birthday Matt!
Loving you and missing you every day. Not a day goes by that you are not on our minds and always in our hearts. Have a glorious day with Jesus!

LOVE, YOUR FAMILY

Family grateful

It is difficult to put our thoughts into words, but we very much appreciate your kind and helpful words, deeds and gestures at a time when these things mean so very much to our family. We thank God for friends such as you! Special thanks to our Taylor Church family, Brother Jim Cox, our sister-in-love Carol Altman Haspel, V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and all the pallbearers for all their love and support.

Family of Sunya Kim Godwin
Windell Godwin
Benny, Michelle and Mia Fish

Thanks so much

The family of our son Dennis Morris would like to thank other family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy. The cards and flowers were beautiful, and the food prepared for us was truly a blessing. Our thanks also to Forbes Funeral Home.

Charles and Sharon and family

Thanks for help on "Live" event

The members of Souls Harbor Church of God, the family of Derek, Becky and Kately Crews and Katie Rhoden would like to thank everyone in the community who helped to make the "Live for Kately" event on July 13 possible. There will never be enough words to thank everyone for the donated food, drinks, music, games and those who volunteered their time and worked behind the scenes to make this event a huge success. There are too many people to name individually, and so many people who had a hand in helping. Please accept this sincere thank you from the bottom of our hearts. There is no better place to live, work, attend church and raise a family than in Baker County!

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

Register at www.bakercountypress.com and you will have access to all content from the print edition and more!

Subscriptions \$5/MONTH or \$25/YEAR
PAYMENT VIA PAYPAL

What to do about that 'statue'

Here's a funny story. If you're a Jaguar fan you know who Shad Khan is. The owner of the team. Rich. Great moustache. Khan, who emigrated to the US from Pakistan when he was a kid, is also a soccer fan. So what do rich guys who are sports fans do? They buy teams.

Khan just bought one of my favorite British teams, Fulham. It's located in London and was owned by Egyptian Mohammed Al Fayed. He's best known for being the father of Princess Diana's boyfriend Dodi.

Anyway, now that we've got our connections straight, Khan bought Fulham, best known to US fans as the former home of USA star Clint Dempsey.

Just like in Jacksonville, Fulham fans have taken to wearing Shad Khan moustaches. But he has a bit of a problem. Not just that the team is in the bottom half of the league. He's got to be used to that by now. No, it's the statue out front of the stadium.

Some great former Fulham player? Nope. Not a lot of those. Yep. Al Fayed was a huge MJ fan and erected a statue outside the stadium. In the deal Al Fayed wants it to stay. Khan hates it. What to do? What to do? Maybe replace it with a statue of Blaine Gabbert. Makes as much sense.

Hmm. Maybe winning the Heisman Trophy as a freshman isn't completely a good thing. Texas A&M quarterback and Heisman winner Johnny Manziel left the Manning Passing Academy this week and went home to college station. It wasn't that the

fat lady

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fat lady

Jungle Aunt

KIDS SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SUNDAYS FROM 10A.M. - 12P.M.,
JULY 21 & 28, AUGUST 4 & 11
AT
Emmanuel
Lutheran Church
12286 N CR 23-A Macclenny
904-259-1676 / EBCLIFE.org
DON'T MISS THE EXCITING JUNGLE ADVENTURES!

Pastor APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, July 21 | Dinkins NCM Church
Sunday School @ 10 am | Service @ 11 am
Message will be brought by Rev. Timothy Allard

Come out and worship with us and show our Pastor how much we appreciate him.
Dinner on the ground following the morning service.

WE ARE BAKER COUNTY'S ROOFING EXPERTS

COMBS BUILDERS, INC.

Re-Roofs • New Roofs • Leak Repairs
Torch Down Leaks • Roof Inspections
WE SPECIALIZE IN PROBLEM ROOFS
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Licensed & Insured

259-2563
Commercial & Residential
Owner: Tim Combs
Florida State Certified Roofing
Contractor Lic# CC01325730

FREE Estimates

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 02-2013-DR-311

IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF:
JORDAN KING ALLART
A Minor Child

NOTICE OF FILING ACTION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO: BILLY JOE KING, Putative Father
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTICED that action for Change of Name for the above referenced minor child has been filed. You are required to send the original of your responses, if any, to the Baker County Courtroom, 339 East Macclenny Avenue, and a copy to the below referenced attorney by August 23, 2013, or a Judgment may be entered for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Notary Public
Dated: July 15, 2013

Attorney:
Daria Jean Christopher
P.O. Box 214
Macclenny, Florida 32063
(904) 259-6222/6282 FAX
D.Christopher@verizon.net
7/18/13

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case No.: 02-2010-CA-00075

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICE, L.P. F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P.
Plaintiff,
vs.
BUDDY F. MARTIN, ET AL.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment filed 6/25/2013, entered in Civil Case No.: 02-2010-CA-00075, of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P. F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P. is Plaintiff, and BUDDY F. MARTIN, AK/A BUDDY MARTIN; SUSAN E. MARTIN AKA SUSAN MARTIN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS CO-DEBTORS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC.; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION, are Defendants.

AL FRASER, the Clerk of Court shall sell to the highest bidder for cash at the main entrance of the courthouse located at 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 at 11:00 a.m. on the 25 day of July, 2013 the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 31 OF HERITAGE OAKS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE(S) 95, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

This property is located at the Street address of: 570 HERITAGE CROSSING, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After 60 days, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on July 8, 2013.

Al Fraser
CLERK OF THE COURT
Deputy Clerk

Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd, Suite 100
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 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 the ADA Coordinator, Althea County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-0227 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired call 711.

7/11-18c

NEWS PHOTOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH EASY ONLINE PURCHASE!

Go to www.bakercountypress.com

BAKER COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Daytime classes are offered Monday – Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Evening classes are offered Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
*Pre-registration is required.
Adult Education Class Registration:
Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Per Florida Statute 1009.21 Proof of Florida residency is required. Common forms for proof include but are not limited to:

- A valid Florida driver's license
- A valid State of Florida identification card
- A Florida vehicle registration
- A State of Florida Voter's Registration or proof of voter registration in FL
- Utility Bills (excludes cell phone bill)
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in FL for at least 30 hours per week for a twelve month period
- Proof of permanent home in FL which is occupied as a primary residence by the individual

For additional information regarding registration and Adult Education or GED* test preparation classes, contact Becky Satterwhite at (904) 259-0403.

Classifieds

The Baker County Press

TO PLACE AN AD...

BY PHONE

Call 904-259-2400

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

BY E-MAIL

classifieds@bakercountypress.com

BY MAIL

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
The Baker County Press
P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063

BY WEBSITE

www.bakercountypress.com

DEADLINES

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

Classified ads and notices must be paid in advance, and be in our office no later than 4:00 pm the Monday preceding publication, unless otherwise arranged in advance. Ads can be mailed provided they are accompanied by payment and instructions. They should be mailed to: Classified Ads, The Baker County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063. We cannot assume responsibility for accuracy of ads or notices given over the telephone. Liability for errors in all advertising will be limited to the first publication only. If after that time, the ad continues to run without notification of error by the person or agency for whom it was published, then that party assumes full payment responsibility. The Baker County Press reserves the right to refuse advertising or any other material which in the opinion of the publisher does not meet standards of publication.

FOUND

Tool set found at The Baker County Press Office. Call 259-2400 to identify. 7/18p

ANIMALS

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

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers: The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products. 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 Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to find out how to spot fraudulent solicitations. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. -The Baker County Press

FOR SALE

Wheelbarrow type air compressor with Honda engine. Works great. \$300. Coleman generator, 6250 watt, 10HP B&S model, runs great. \$300. Call 259-3763. 7/18p

Tractor, 3 point hitch 4 wheel drive, diesel or gas; runs good. \$1200. 912-266-1641 or 912-843-2768. 7/18p

1966 396 motor, complete. Many new parts: barnors, pistons, rings. \$1400. 912-266-1641 or 912-843-2768. 7/18p

2 good car batteries. \$65 each. 259-2515. 7/18p

1971 Sea King 12 ft. V/Hull boat and trailer; no motor; boat and trailer only. \$850. 904-253-0830. 7/18c

27 Prowler camper with new AC installed in May. \$4900. See to appreciate. Call for appointment. 259-6572 or 904-563-6976. 7/11-18p

Saturday, June 20th, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Calendar's Pizza, Macclenny. Women's Bazaar. Come check out your local vendors. Thirty-One, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, It Works, Jewels by Tina, Pampered Chef, Premier Designs, Jewelry by Mandi Canaday. 7/11-18p

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

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

Office Supplies, printer and fax cartridges, rubber stamps and much more. We specialize in hard to find items. The Office Mart, 110 S. 5th Street. 259-3737 4/28tfc

MISCELLANEOUS

Christian Cleaning Service; house or business. Call Selina for free estimate. 904-210-2039. 7/11-18p

Thomas Family Daycare; any ages. Licensed 27 years. Episcopal accepted. Hot meals, snacks, outdoor play. Cathy Thomas, 259-3678 or 904-742-4980. 7/18p

Landscaping mulch. Thrift Log Homes. 259-2900. 3/7tfc

We install 6" seamless gutters. Pressure washing. 259-7335. 9/11tfc

Alcoholics anonymous meetings Monday and Friday at 8 pm. Call Wanda 904-994-7750, 209 Macclenny Ave. 1/3-12/27/13p

Choosing adoption? Loving, single woman will provide home/support of large, extended family. Let's help each other. Financial security. Excellent benefits. Deborah, toll-free (855-779-3699) Sklar Law Firm, LLC FI Bar #0150789. 7/18p

Advertise in newspapers across Florida - One phone call puts your ad in 117 newspapers. Reach millions of Floridians for one low cost by calling 866.742.3273 or visit www.adnetworksflorida.com. 7/18p

Premium Metal Roofing, Manufacturer Direct & Metal Roof profiles in 40+ colors! Superior customer service, same day pick-up, fast delivery! 1-888-779-4270 or visit www.gulfcoastssupply.com. 7/18p

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here - Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training, Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-314-3769. 7/18p

AUTOMOBILES

2002 Ford Ranger, V6, 5 speed; sweet stereo system with remote; locking bed-cover. \$3500 OBO. 259-2084 or 904-610-1575. 7/18p

1995 Camaro, black, 6 cylinder, automatic, AC, CD player, drives good. 904-586-5791. 7/18p

1987 Toyota Four Runner 4X4. \$2650 firm. 904-253-0830. 7/18c

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AIRLINE CAREERS begin here - Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training, Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-314-3769. 7/18p

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

5 acres on St. Mary's River, zoned Ag; high and dry. Ready to build on; very nice wooded acres. \$34,900; two to pick from. 904-591-2640. 7/18tfc

1.08 acres MOL wooded lot in Branford, FL, about 800 ft. from Suwannee River. Boat ramp is about 4 miles away. It is a great place to get away from it all. It has lots of wildlife. It is priced to sell. \$5000 cash. Call 259-3763. 7/18p

Lots for sale, Copper Creek and Glenfield Oaks subdivisions. \$32,000 each. Call 904-813-1580. 2/7tfc

1/2 acre lot just outside city limits with mobile home. Mobile home has no value. \$35,000 down, payment \$1,500. \$3024/month. Call 904-813-1580. 12/13tfc

70+ Property Online Real Estate REO Auction. Homes, Commercial, Multi-Family, Lots. Sperry Van Ness - Commercial Real Estate. Advisors \$50,468.6800. www.BidOnBankREO.com. L. Fisher FL AU220. 7/18p

LAND & CABIN PACKAGE. Only \$79,900! Crossville, Tennessee. Pre-grand opening sale. 30 acres and 1,200 Sq. Ft. cabin package. Minutes from 4 state parks and TN River. Limited inventory. Call now 877/243-2091. 7/18p

Responsible, mature person to manage lawn service; drug free, part time. Apply in person at Dual State Real Estate, 1484-C South 6th Street, Macclenny, Monday-Friday, 9-1. 7/4tfc

Experienced painters needed. Peacock Painting. 259-5877. 2/21tfc

Auto Sales, in home sales or any sales experience. Small roofing company looking for an outside salesman, no roofing experience needed, will train. Please call 1-866-959-7663. 7/4-25p

Drivers: \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-888-567-3110. 7/18-8/8p

Certified Nursing Assistant. Full/part-time, days/evenings/nights/weekends. We are looking for dependable TEAM players. Must pass level 2 AHCA screening. Apply in person to Macclenny Nursing and Rehab 735 S. 5th Street. NO phone calls please. "An EEO/AA Employer/M/F/V/D." 7/18c

Library Outreach Assistant needed to assist on bookmobile. Minimum HS graduate, thorough knowledge of computer, internet and email. \$8.75/hr, 20 hrs/week, 2-10hr workdays. Valid FL driver's license and clean driving record required. This is a temporary position and may last six months or less. Apply in person New River PL Cooperative, 110 N. Lake Ave, Lake Butler. 7/18c

Drivers: Guaranteed Home EVERY Weekend! Company: All Miles Paid (Loaded or Empty)! Lease: To Own No Money Down, NO Credit Check! Call: 1-866-823-0323. 7/18p

The Baker County Council on Aging is seeking a volunteer for our Home Delivered Meal Route. The volunteer would be needed Monday through Friday. For more information please contact Christina Harvey at 904-259-2223 X4233. 7/18p

EARNING BETTER PAY IS ONE STEP AWAY! Averitt offers Experienced CDL-A Drivers. Excellent Benefits and Weekly Hometime. 888-362-8608, Recent Grads w/ CDL-A 1-5wks. Paid Training. Apply online at AverittCareers.com Equal Opportunity Employer. 7/18p

DRIVER TRAINEE NEEDED NOW! Learn to drive for US Xpress! Earn \$700 per week! No experience needed! Local CDL Training. Job ready in 15 days! (888)368-1964. 7/18p

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Saturday only, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 125 Rhoden Drive, down Barber Road, by McDonald's.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-7, 4244 Hickory Street. Miscellaneous items; too much to list.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BAKER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Looking back: First grade in Macclenny in ?

The above photo is one of hundreds stored at the Baker County Historical Society on McIver Street. According to the hand-written text on the back side of the photo, it's an image of Fay Matthews Milton's first grade class in Macclenny. Some of the children were identified as follows: Front row from left: (blank) Ellison?, (blank) Bowman?, Edward W. Crockett, Sharon Hines?, (blank) Evans?, Sharron Crews, Tommy Crawford, Bonnie Green, unidentified, Earnie Mae Griffiths and unidentified. Middle row from left: unidentified, (blank) Fraser, Lawrence Howard, unidentified, , unidentified, (blank) Crawford?, (blank) Crews, unidentified, Wendell Kirkland, and (blank) Ellison. Back row from left: unidentified, (blank) Barton, (blank) Gattlin, (blank) Gattlin, unidentified, unidentified and Manly Johns. The photo was not dated. We'll be publishing old photos from the society's collection occasionally in The Press and invite readers to submit their old photos as well for publication with any information they may have on the image. Drop them by the office, 104 S. 5th St., or submit them by e-mail to reporter@bakercountypress.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 10-11 YEAR OLD BAKER COUNTY ALL-STARS

Baker boys after 10-11 district title

The Little League's 10-11 baseball all-star team is pictured above following their recent district championship win. The squad went on to beat Merritt Island 4-2 in its first sectional game before falling to DeLand 11-4 in the following contest. Pictured in front from left are Hayden Fish, Conner Moore, Danny Neri, Noah Howell, Trace Kemp, Colby Watson and Scott Rewis. The players in back from left are Carter Kennedy, Blane Roberts, Colby Kennedy, Cody Bennett and Reagon Houge.

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The Baker County High School Class of 1993 is planning a 20th reunion on August 10 at the University Club in Jacksonville and more details will emerge later. If you have not updated contact information on our Facebook page, send it to bchs93reunion@gmail.com. You can also go to www.bchs93reunion.com for an additional information.

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



GOT SPORTS? CONTACT JON. Contact our new sports editor Jon Shumake on Twitter @jonshumake or by e-mail at jonshu@live.com

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All-Stars: 9-10 squad to state; four teams in sectionals

JON SHUMAKE SPORTS EDITOR jonshu@live.com

The Little League All-Star tournaments continued last week with four Baker County teams competing in sectional play and one advancing to the state tournament.

The 9 and 10-year-old baseball team has had an exciting run in the tournament thus far, and that didn't change during the Section 3 tournament in Mims, FL. They cruised to a 16-2 victory over Deary to advance to the championship game against Indian River City.

The second game wasn't as easy for the Baker County boys as it went into extra innings after being tied 9-9 at the end of regulation. Baker County was able to put together a four-run seventh inning to take a 13-9 lead. They sealed the victory on defense by turning a game-ending double play to halt Indian River City's comeback attempt and win the game 13-12.

The win gives Baker County the Section 3 crown and a spot in the state championship tournament, which will be held July 19-21 in Mims. The eight-team tournament is broken up into two four-team pools that will play in round robin fashion. Baker County is in the A Pool and will play the Section 6 champion Naples Friday night before playing Section 2 winners SW Port St. Lucie and Section 5 victors Apopka on Saturday.

If Baker County is able to either win or be the runner-up of its pool, the team will play against one of the teams from the B Pool that advanced on Sunday. The B Pool consists of Keystone, N Brandon, Chaires and Kendall.

The winners of Sunday's semifinals will play July 21 to determine the 9 and 10-year-old state baseball champion.

While the 9 and 10-year-old baseball team will continue to play in hopes of earning a state title, three other Baker County teams came up short in their pursuit of the sectional crown.

The 10 and 11-year-old baseball team also traveled to Mims to play in the sectional tournament. The team started off strong with a 4-2 victory over Merritt Island, but fell to DeLand 11-4.

While the baseball teams were in Mims playing, Baker County's major and senior softball teams remained home to continue tournament play at Min-



Above: Baker County's Allie Crummy pitches while D. Miller prepares to catch. Below, manager Robert Davis gives his team a pep talk in the drizzling rain.

ger Fields. Like the rest of the softball tournament, weather played a huge roll throughout the weekend's action.

Both Baker County teams were supposed to play their two games on July 13, but the weather didn't cooperate.

Baker County's major division game against Rockledge got underway on time, but poor weather affected it throughout. Baker County's team was dominant when the weather was dry, but unfortunately rain fell for much of the early portion of the game.

A heavy downpour forced a nearly three-hour delay in the first inning as the crew scrambled to drain



her to score and give Rockledge a 4-1 edge. The game, along with the rest of the tournament, was postponed shortly after that play until Sunday because of continuous lightning strikes within three miles of the field. Baker County shutdown Rockledge when play

resumed Sunday morning, but the damage had already been done. Baker County wasn't able to mount a comeback as Rockledge pitcher Ashley Stephenson struck out six batters en route to the 4-1 win.

Despite the rain playing a crucial role in the game, Coach Robert Davis wouldn't use it as an excuse. "It didn't bother us at all," Davis said. "We played one inning in the rain and that's just playing ball. That's just how the bogs fell."

The girls still had a chance to win the section if they beat Orange City in the day's second game. Unfortunately, the team's hitting was continued and Orange City's Haley Duncan threw a no-hitter. She had a perfect game entering the sixth inning before Cook was able to reach base on an error.

Baker County's defense played well again in the second game, but the lack of offense made them come up short. The team gave up just one run in the fifth inning, but that was all Orange City needed to win and advance to the state tournament.

Davis said he was happy with the team's performance throughout the summer.

"I am very proud of all of the girls for the hard work that they put into this," Davis said. "Due to the runs allowed in this tournament and our defense doing the outstanding job we finished second in sectionals and tied for the ninth place in the state. Ninth out of 46 is not too bad."

While the major division game continued through two days, the senior division had to wait until Sunday to play both of its games.

Baker County rolled to a 24-0 victory in its first game against Mims. The scoring got underway with a three-run triple in the first inning by Madison Kennedy, who scored on an error on the same play. The team never looked back after a 13-run first inning in the dominating win.

They weren't able to keep the offensive production up in their second game against Deary. The game was tied 1-1 going into the sixth inning and was a defensive struggle until Baker County struggled defensively. Deary capitalized on six Baker County errors in the inning and took an 8-1 lead, which was the final score.

Baker County's senior team finished second in the Section 3 tournament.

Next week's edition will have the results from the 9 and 10-year-old baseball team's quest for a state championship.

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Bullets stroke past Winston YMCA

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The Baker Bullets swim team returned to the pool at the Baker County Family YMCA July 13 with an impressive showing against Winston YMCA from Ponte Vedra.

Poor weather prevented the Bullets from practicing through much of the week leading up to the meet, but it didn't slow the team down. They outscored the Winston Waves 2,659 to 1,084 en route to another victory.

The overall team scores were a reflection of how well the individual swimmers performed in their events. The Bullets had 49 swimmers competing in 145 individual events, which resulted in a total of 79 best times. Those time improvements are the most important thing, Coach Trevor Nelson said.

"When you see the kids work hard, that's what makes you the proudest," Nelson said. "The swimmers did a very good job today."

All the time improvements meant great showings in the individual results as Baker County had swimmers finish near the top in every event, but it included some extremely close finishes.

Loriann Bliss edged out a Winston swimmer by just two one-hundredths of a second to take first place in the girls 11-12 50-yard backstroke. Audri Leis finished in third place slightly more than a second later. Samantha Dillard and Sarah Beth Murphree took first and third for the 9-10 girls. Seth Crawford finished in second place for the 11-12 boys, and James Gipson came in third place for the 9-10 boys.

In the boys 13-14 100-yard individual medley (IM), Daniel Boehm narrowly won over his brother Joseph by less than a second in another thrilling race. Mitchell Crain finished in third in the event. Landon Prevatt finished atop the 11-12 boys, while Braeden Knight did the same in



Bullets swimmers Daniel Boehm (left) and Joseph Boehm at Saturday's meet at the Baker YMCA pool.

PHOTO BY JON SHUMAKE

the open boys division. Keslea Crain, Karlee Nelson and Elizabeth Reagan swept the top three spots for the 13-14 girls, and Ashley Jennings and Andrea Clark finished first and second in the open girls division.

Jack Putney finished less than one second behind a Winston swimmer in the 7-8 boys 25-yard butterfly. Pacey Holtom finished third for the Bullets. James Richardson finished at the top for the 6 and under boys.

The 9-10 boys 50-yard butterfly might have been the closest event of the day. There was only a 1.2-second difference between first and third, which went to Kyler Wilkerson and Daniel Westinghouse, respectively. Michelle Dukeman finished second for the 11-12 girls. Dillard and Emily Ossmann claimed the second and third spots for the 9-10 girls.

But not every race was so close. In the 50-yard freestyle, Braeden Knight finished more than five seconds ahead of his closest competition for a first-place finish. Bliss and Leis finished second and third for the 11-12 girls, and Prevatt and Crawford did the same for the boys in the same age division. Dillard finished third for the 9-10 girls.

Andrea Clark and Ashley Jennings finished in the top two spots in the girls 200-yard freestyle. Jennings took first place in the 100-yard butterfly as she

finished ahead of Logan Todd for the prize.

Ethan Knight, Daniel Boehm and Joseph Boehm swept the top three spots in the 100-yard freestyle for the 13-14 boys, while Crain, Nelson and Reagan did the same for the 13-14 girls.

In the 25-yard freestyle, Jordyn Knight finished in first for the 6 and under girls. Will Nickles and Richardson finished first and second for the 6 and under boys. Putney finished ahead of teammate Gabe Finley for second and third place for the 7-8 boys.

The Bullets had swimmers finish atop the 100-yard breaststroke in multiple divisions. Ethan Knight, Daniel Boehm and Justus Tampoc swept the top three positions for the 13-14 boys. Nelson and Molly Walters finished in first and second for the 13-14 girls, while Abby Rice and Bethany Richards replicated the results in the open girls division.

Leis, Peyton Ferry and Bliss finished in the top three of the 50-yard breaststroke for the 11-12 girls. Prevatt and Crawford came in second and third for the 11-12 boys. Ossmann and Hannah Johnston finished in second and third for the 9-10 girls, and Westinghouse and Wilkerson had the same results for the 9-10 boys.

Richardson and Nickles

backstroke. Nickles and Richardson took first and second for the 6 and under boys, and Jordyn Knight finished first for the girls of the same age group. Finley claimed first place for the 7-8 boys, while Lyndi Barrios came in third for the girls.

As successful as the Bullets were in individual events, they were just as competitive in relay events.

Baker County had teams finish in first and second in the mixed 100-yard freestyle relay. The first-place team of Ethan Knight, Ashley Jennings, Bethany Richardson and Crain clocked in at less than one minute in the event.

The mixed 13-14 100-yard freestyle relay team swept the top three spots, while the mixed 11-12 100-yard freestyle team finished second.

The 9-10 girls and 7-8 boys both claimed first place in the 100-yard freestyle relay in their age groups. The 9-10 boys and the 7-8 girls both finished in second.

The Bullets will compete against Fernandina Beach July 20 in the final meet before championships. Nelson said it could be the most competitive meet of the season, and it starts at 9 am at the YMCA pool on West Lowder Street in Macclenny.

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