



BCMS football coach, 2 others are snared in raid at cockfight

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YMCA director treks abroad for international confab in Prague

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75¢

AUGUST 22, 2013 THURSDAY

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 17 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism including General Excellence in 2012

BAKER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Raises aplenty with start of school

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Baker County teachers are starting the 2013-14 school year off this week with a new crop of students to educate in the classroom and more money to spend in their pockets.

Pay raises and bonuses for all teachers and longevity pay for dozens of senior instructors were included in a \$790,311 salary and benefits package in a new contract for teachers approved by the school board during a meeting on the evening of August 19.

The board also voted to allocate \$196,320 to lighten the load of higher health insurance rates by contributing an extra \$40 a month toward each employee's premium, which was an answer to a plea made by teacher union leaders three months ago.

"We are so pleased with this contract," Angela Callahan, president of the Baker County Education Association union, told the board this week. "We felt you heeded our call for help with our insurance. The financial package is one of the best we've had in years."

Mrs. Callahan, who is transferring this year to the middle school after teaching for seven years at Westside Elementary, said some teachers were so happy with the new contract that they had "tears in their eyes" when union members voted overwhelmingly to ratify the new agreement on August 16.

"Only three voted no," said Mrs. Callahan, adding that such a lopsided ratification is rare. "The end result, I feel, was phenomenal."

In addition to pay raises for all teachers, except brand new hires with no previous teaching experience, the new contract also provides \$417 bonuses to be paid to all teachers in the September 13 paycheck and a new supplement for longevity for 63 teachers who are at the top of the pay scale. The supplement ranges from \$5,900 for those on 197-day contracts, \$7,188 for 240-day teachers and \$7,817 for 261-day teach-

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Football, volleyball season previews

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Oldcastle seeking pre-lawsuit documents

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Sand mining company Oldcastle Southern Group has called in the cavalry.

It's hired Gunster, a Florida law firm with more than 100 attorneys in offices across the state who specialize in various business fields, according to the firm's web site.

Gunster first submitted to the county a massive public records request on August 12 for phone, e-mail, text, social media posts and paper documents related

to Oldcastle Southern Group's proposed sand mining plans in the southeastern county and several other ancillary issues like recently proposed changes to county mining regulations and the company's deal with the City of Macclenny for accepting its treated wastewater for the planned sand mine.

The five-page request seeks 26 separate sets of records. County Manager C.J. Thompson said the phone records alone numbered in the thousands of pages.

Four days later the county was notified by Gunster that Oldcastle is seeking mediation before a special magistrate in

hopes of overturning the county commission's denial last month of the company's special zoning exception to mine.

In the "Request for Relief," the firm's William E. Adams Jr. alludes to the potential for further legal action should the mediation prove unsuccessful.

"Oldcastle is ready and willing to file all appropriate challenges to the county's improper denial of the application," the attorney wrote to commission chairman Mark Hartley. "Oldcastle's request here is an opportunity for the county to avoid costly litigation and the waste of precious county resources in favor of a negotiated

resolution."

Mr. Adams further argues that the board was not presented with any evidence during the public hearing last month to support the commission's 4-1 vote against the zoning exception application.

"Instead of following the law and basing its decision on the only competent substantial evidence presented, the county abdicated its duty to adhere to the requirements of law for perceived political expediency," he wrote. "The only legally permissible decision at the conclu-

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Fly-in nets \$1K for Wounded Warriors

Sixty miniature airplane pilots stationed themselves at the hayfield north of Glen August 17 for a fly-in benefit during which \$1000 was raised for the Wounded Warriors Project assisting veterans of the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars. Above, a flying miniature replica of the famed P58 Mustang parked behind the flight line where participants pitched tents to ward off the sun and heat index that rose above 100 degrees that day. At right, Buford Howard of Callahan makes some adjustments to his Piper Cub. Several real aircraft arrived but threatening weather forced them home.



BCMS band chief seeks to build on program

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

New middle school band director and flutist Heather Davidson began her teaching career in Chatham County, North Carolina, which wasn't among the more music-friendly districts in the state.

She taught there for four-plus-years at four different schools, sometimes instructing children at two schools in the

same day. One music room, made from cinder blocks, was the best facility she used.

"You hit a snare drum and it sounds like a bullet is heading towards you," she said. "So it was very loud and not good on your ears, but that was my best room."

It was a far cry from what she found at the middle school.

Now she has a band room with storage and her own office. The band program enjoys support from the administration

and the public at large. The program attracted 120 students this year.

"It's not a program that requires a lot of building, which is wonderful," said Mrs. Davidson, 30. She wants to maintain the excellence she's heard about the program and build upon what former director Matthew Jernigan accomplished.

He led the program to an "excellent" rating at last year's MPA performance, where students play for judges. Mrs. Davidson hopes to help students earn the

"superior" mark this year.

The High Point, N.C. native comes to the position after working for two years at a college book store in Gainesville. She said she's been checking into teaching openings for some time, but until now, nothing appeared to be a good fit.

Her music education began early, with her grandmother teaching her to play the piano. By sixth grade she was

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS
Should school open houses be held during non-business hours?

76% Yes
22% No

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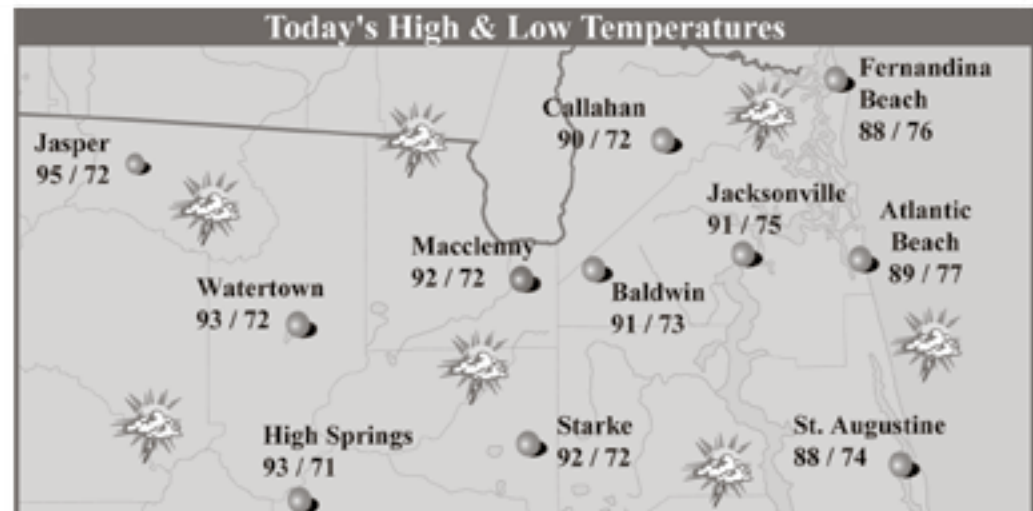
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The Baker County Press Weather

Aug. 22, 2013

Seven Day Forecast table with columns for day and weather details.



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

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

Weather History table for Aug. 22, 1987, and a table for Peak Times.

PRIME ADVERTISING REAL ESTATE advertisement with promotional text and contact information.

Oldcastle: seeks data

From page 1
sion of the hearing [was] that the application should have been granted."

Mr. Hartley said he was not surprised by Oldcastle's response to the denial vote, which came about 1:30 am on July 17, several hours after the hearing began.

Commissioner James Croft and Mr. Thompson said they expected the company, a Tampa-based subsidiary of a worldwide building materials conglomerate based in Ireland, to appeal the board's denial in court.

While mediation is not litigation, Mr. Thompson said the special magistrate's recommendations for both parties to resolve the dispute can be presented as evidence in civil court.

Another attorney for Gunster, Brian Seymour, who specializes in land use, environmental permitting and property rights, conceded that was a possibility.

The recommendations from the magistrate, an attorney mutually agreed upon by both parties, are not binding, however.

The first step in the mediation process is for the parties to mutually agree within 10 days on the magistrate.

Guster attorney Lynn Pappas suggested three attorneys in her letter to Mr. Hartley, which accompanied the request: Linda Shelley, Wayne Flowers and Nancy Linman.

Mr. Thompson said he's acknowledged receipt of the Request for Relief and asked for additional time to secure a dedicated attorney for the county. He

School district: raises aplenty

From page 1

The longevity supplement was created by the school district as a way to compensate teachers who have reached the top of the salary schedule and are no longer eligible for annual step increases.

However, their salaries were reduced several thousand dollars, so their net increase is only a little over \$2,000, said Marcelle Richardson, the district's chief budget officer.

For example, she said, a teacher with a bachelor's degree after 25 years previously was paid about \$59,000 but under the new contract will receive a salary of \$55,125, plus the new longevity supplement.

Board members were pleased to have the new contract completed so early in the year. Contract approvals in the past have sometimes not been completed until months after the new school year has begun.

"Some districts are still trying to ratify last year's contracts," board member Artie Burnett said, attributing the successful negotiations this year to "our (teachers and administrators) ability to work together for the common goal of serving children."

Board member Patricia Weeks agreed that everyone seemed very satisfied with the outcome of

this year's negotiations with the BCEA, which is the local affiliate of the Florida Education Association.

"I think everybody's just thrilled to have a job and a paycheck and are ready to go to work," she said.

Not only will the bigger paychecks help teachers and their families cope with the still-struggling economy, the district's \$480 yearly additional contribution to health insurance premiums will be that much less that teachers will have to take out of their household budget, officials said.

"It'll help ease the burden for them and that's what we wanted to do," said board chairman Dean Griffis.

"There's a big demand for these people (speech and hearing therapists) out there and there's not that many people to fill these positions," Mr. Griffis said. Approved Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson's request for a revised district cell phone assignment list, which she said is getting shorter because so many employees prefer to use their personal cell phones.

"We keep whittling them down," Mrs. Raulerson said, referring to the new list of 15 people, including herself, who are provided district cell phones. Mr. Griffis said he could understand why some employees would rather use their own phone exclusively.

"It's kind of hard to keep up with two cell phones," he said. Approved an agreement with the Florida Learning Alliance Inc. for the 2013-14 Navigator Plus-Track Module (formally known as My-Points.org), which provides a web-based staff development management system.

The program was developed by the Palatka-based Florida Learning Alliance in cooperation with the Northeast Florida Education Consortium to help districts manage the continuing education requirements of their teachers and staff.

playing both flute and piano, but eventually had to choose a single instrument.

The flute won, partly due to its curious nature. It's played by blowing over holes in the instrument rather than blowing into them, which intrigued the young musician.

"I really had a passion for playing, performing and listening [to the flute]. And I always wanted to be a teacher before I discovered music so I knew music education was in my future," she said. "In high school, my electives were all music whenever I could. I was in jazz band playing flute and learning to transcribe and teaching kids in the beginning bands. I was very, very active."

She earned a bachelor's degree in 2006 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, double-majoring in music and education. She selected that path after working with students on a variety of instruments during her freshman year. "I realized how much fun I had teaching the beginning levels," said Mrs. Davidson. She describes her approach to teaching as individualistic. She believes a band is only as strong as its weakest player and she encourages positive feedback over negative feedback.

New band director: wants to build on BCMS program

From page 1

He said the process will either result in a resolution agreement between the Baker County Commission and Oldcastle, or if the parties cannot come to terms, the magistrate issues recommendations.

"They are not binding but they're pretty instructive," said Mr. Seymour.

Outside of work she plays in four bands, including The Gainesville Pops. She likes to hike, cook and

read. Mrs. Davidson hopes students leave her classroom with a love for music, so they'll grow up to support music and music activities in their communities.

"I really feel like if I can encourage a student to participate in music in their adult life then I have succeeded in prolonging the life of music," she said. To view The Press' full interview with Mrs. Davidson and see her perform, please visit www.bakercountypress.com.

"I'll be learning a lot more of the jazz style," said Mrs. Davidson, "a challenge I accept gratefully. I love jazz. I love listening to it."

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Open houses: earlier, later in day

JESSICA PREVATT | STAFF

I just returned from the first of two open houses I have to attend two days before the start of school. As a working mother I am having to take off twice and eat lunch at my desk to get my children to their appointed schools for open house. I consider myself lucky because unlike parents who work in Jacksonville, I work in Macclenny and am able to take off to attend events such as this.

I, along with many other parents and teachers, struggle to understand why these open houses can't be scheduled at least later in the afternoon so working parents can attend easier. The first one was a "drop-in" at the middle school, my first of that type and I really enjoyed it. Parents show up anytime from 10 am to 1 pm, meet teachers, pick up

schedules and any other pertinent information, plus actually have time to speak with their child's teachers without a crowd of people.

The "drop ins" are a fantastic idea and should be implemented at all the schools. I spoke with Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson last week regarding the open house schedules. She said they work hard to accommodate parents and will look at the schedules for next year to see what they can do to improve the times for those who work. They need as much parent involvement in all grades as possible and welcome all input.

If all schools hosted the "drop ins" they could schedule two an evening, maybe one school from 3-6 and one from 4-7 to give all parents time to attend both if needed in one night without conflict. It won't

solve the parking nightmare but it helps with taking off work during the middle of the day.

My only other problem stems from the fact that both of these open houses are being held two days prior to school starting. I printed generic supply lists released by the schools earlier this month and purchased everything for my boys. I then received a different list at open house for both boys. It would be nice if the individual teachers submitted lists and the schools had them available earlier so parents don't waste time and money buying things they won't need. With the Internet it would be easy to post the individual lists on the school's website. Last year my child's teachers did this and it was fantastic.

Today in many homes both parents work. If you want

them to be involved you have to bend a little. Open houses scheduled later in the day should improve attendance and moods.

As a side note, I am looking forward to another great school year for my children and hope school gets off to a great start for all the kids this week! Teachers - don't forget to call The Press if you have any special events or classroom projects. We're pleased to publish pictures and articles showing off the great things our teachers and students do. Email Joel Addington at reporter@bakercountypress.com two to three days in advance so we can schedule someone to cover the event.

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

The many ways to gauge your age(s)

How old are you? Actually, that's a rhetorical question. I'm not asking you to Facebook me with your age or drop me a note. I'm just making a point because my wife just had a birthday.

No I am not going to reveal her age. Are you nuts? Do you think I have a death wish? Besides, I'm not sure I actually know her age. I've heard a lot of possible ages bantered

about this week, but unless I ask her mother Sara Norman, who is all too happy to tell, I don't know which is the real one.

That doesn't surprise me. Most of the time if you asked me my calendar age I could only tell her age. Are you nuts? Do you think I have a death wish? Besides, I'm not sure I actually know her age. I've heard a lot of possible ages bantered

I'm convinced most people haven't just one age, they have

four. At any given time any of those four ages are accurate - at least in our minds.

First is calendar age, the age on our birth certificate and driver's license. That is the age that counts, but that isn't the only age.

There are three more ages that are equally valid. The second age is the age we tell, and it varies based on whim. Not to sound sexist, but I think women vary the most when taking this second age into account.

When I'm asked, I'll tell my age without compunction - plus or minus a year. I don't really think about age that much so it doesn't come into play with me.

My wife Kelley, however, has given so many different ages when asked that I'm not sure that she really is certain how old she is. I'm certainly not going to venture a guess in print because I have this phrase dancing around in my head: "You have to sleep sometimes."

The third age is the age we see in the mirror, and for me, that age can vary from 40 to 100 depending.

One day I might look in the mirror and wonder who that old geezer is staring back at me. On other days I'm amazed I look as young as I do. Strangely enough, there aren't quite as many of those days as there used to be.

The final age is the one that we have in our head. Most people don't admit mentally to their actual age. It's not that

we are consciously lying to ourselves, it's just that we don't tick off the years as we go along.

I have an activity in my speech class where I make students close their eyes and picture themselves standing in their underwear in front of a full-length mirror. I tell them to get a clear picture in their head exactly how they look. Then they open their eyes.

I talk to them about how skewed our image is of our physique. We either are way too easy on ourselves, thinking we are absolute stunners when in reality ... or the opposite. We are way too hard on ourselves, thinking we are hideous when we aren't at all. The same is true for our "brain age." It isn't always very accurate.

For the longest time, I thought I was about 22. I hadn't been 22 for years, but I really didn't feel any different than I did at 22. Then it all of a sudden jumped to 35 and stayed that way for a good while.

When my calendar age hit 50, I started to have accompanying aches and pains. My knees hurt, my lower back and hip ached and my eyesight got worse. No longer could my mind fool myself into thinking that I was 35.

I can't put a number on where I feel now. Some mornings it's 75, but others, like now it's 45. I'm fine with that. That's a good number. I'm not looking forward to the time that it sticks on 75. So, I'm back to my original question.

How old are you?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chamber stingy with invitations

Dear Editor:

I saw a posting on Facebook August 19 about Ander Crenshaw holding a small business roundtable at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss small business concerns. Since I know several local small business owners, I began contacting them, but none of them were aware of or invited to the roundtable despite them being members of the Chamber of Commerce.

I contacted [county manager] C.J. Thompson to find out what time the meeting started and if it was open to the public. Mr. Thompson told me the meeting was only open to elected officials and Chamber board members and was organized by the Chamber.

It is also my understanding that a few small business owners contacted the Chamber and were told they could not attend. Later that day I contacted the Chamber and spoke with Barbara Blackbear about why the roundtable was not open to all small business owners and how it was determined who could attend and if she would provide a list of attendees and the agenda. She informed me that she could provide that but would not.

The Chamber touts 240-plus members. Why were there only 25-30 people in attendance? If the size of the Chamber is the reason, why not move the meeting to the Ag Center or someplace similar? As a taxpayer in this county, am I not entitled to know who attended the roundtable and what was discussed? Would that meeting fall under the state's Sunshine Law?

I believe there are times when government officials - not the elected or appointed - forget that they work, are paid by and accountable to the taxpayers.

The Chamber should recognize that all small business owners, not just the hand-picked few, have concerns that deserve to be addressed by the Chamber and Mr. Crenshaw. Our local small business owners work hard and they deserve a seat at the table.

Theresa Rhoden
Glen St. Mary

Draining aquifer: are we to be next?

Dear Editor:

Oldcastle Southern first said they needed to pump some 70 million gallons of water from our aquifer. Later, they said they would "recycle" 90% of it. Then they said 800,000 gallons of waste water (from Macclenny) would suffice.

Now they threaten to sue. Some 90% of northeast Florida and east-central Florida uses water from our aquifer.

In 2010, farmers near Plant City pumped so much water from the aquifer protecting their crops from freezing and it dropped 60 feet in just days. Some 140 sinkholes resulted. (Source: Tampa Bay Times, Aug. 15, 2013).

The Southwest Florida Water Management District issued a permit to a phosphate mining company Mosaic to pump 70 million gallons a day to dilute its pollution. Seems like "70 million gallons" is popular!

The Times on July 20 reported that Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Hardee and Desoto counties have been under tight restrictions for new residential and commercial water use since 1992. However, Mosaic claims it is "only" removing 30 million gallons a day.

The water management agency that issued Mosaic's water permit declared a 5100 square mile area covering all or part of eight counties south of Interstate 4 to be the "southern water use caution area" in 1992.

The reason? So much water had been pumped from the aquifer in that region that the water table fell 50 feet. Look at Keystone Heights. So is it our turn? Water pumped from the aquifer will not return there.

Earl Frazier
Sandersen

Chamber is openly courting Oldcastle

Dear Editor:

After a heated county commission workshop Monday evening, August 5, 2013, I walked away with a new perspective as to how this county has been operating.

It is blatantly clear that our Chamber of Commerce is in direct opposition to the goals and objectives it touts. This begs the question as to just what motivation the chamber follows in deciding how to bombard our county with continued undesirable prospects and why the chamber is allowed to continue with this trend.

I realize the chamber has no control over who approaches it, however, after hearing from the community and the commissioners, and to continue to openly court these applicants is a direct and deliberate disregard for the well-being of the future of our county.

Jan Schiner
Macclenny



PHOTO BY JOEL ABERNETHY

Rep. Crenshaw chairs business roundtable

U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-Jacksonville) convened a roundtable lunch meeting on August 19 with selected business and government leaders to address their concerns, which included continued implementation of federal healthcare reforms, often referred to as Obamacare, federal corporate income tax deductions for the depreciation of value in assets over time and the gridlock in Congress on the farm bill and other issues.

Caught for cockfighting BCMS coach; two other locals

The football coach at Baker County Middle School was among 53 persons arrested or issued citations when a cockfighting operation was raided the afternoon of August 3 in Coffee County, GA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COFFEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Among the evidence found at the cockfighting event were this barrel of deceased chickens.

William (Rock) Rhoden, 40, of Macclenny was cited for cruelty to animals, a misdemeanor, but a spokesman for the Coffee County Sheriff's Office indicated he may also be charged with a felony for gambling.

Mr. Rhoden reportedly told one of the officers he lost \$400 in what was billed as a weekend event in a rural corner of southwest Coffee County on private property.

The sole other name released of a confirmed Baker County resident was that of Christopher S. Rewis, 40, of Macclenny.

Mr. Rhoden has been heard

coach of the BCHS Bobcats several years and serves in a non-paid, volunteer capacity, according to School Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson.

The Coffee SO spokesman said if any more Baker County participants are identified, their names will be released later this week.

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GLEN TOWN COUNCIL

Lowers utility budget

Glen St. Mary mayor Juanice Padgett proposes to drop spending in the town's water and sewer utility fund by about 6 percent in fiscal 2014, which places it at 93 percent of anticipated revenues for the same period.

The utility portion of the budget to take effect in October still falls short of Mayor Padgett's announced goal of spending 10 percent less than revenues in coming years as a strategy for building up the town's reserves that have been falling steadily in recent years.

She presented the utility budget in a workshop the evening of August 12 during which council members Tommy Sue Davis and Jack Reneau were absent. Glen will hold hearings on its new budget next month.

Mayor Padgett anticipates an "understated" \$126,622 in sewer and water revenues next year, identical to 2013, but proposes \$1656 in savings brought on by severing a technician agreement with the City of Macclenny and replacing it with a town employee.

She also believes the town can get by with \$7500 in repairs and maintenance, down \$3000, and a reduced \$7500 in other charges.

With nominal drops in several other areas, the expense total reaches \$117,560, down from the current year's \$124,805.

"We're better off here than we've been in several years," remarked the mayor during last week's workshop. She referred to recent budgets that have required drops in payroll and other areas to offset static expenses.

She also noted that revenues coming in from new housing in Glen were not factored into the new budget.

She presented a virtually unchanged general operating budget at a July 29 workshop, one that proposes spending \$166,725 against revenues of \$170,150. The 2 percent differential is far below the mayor's 10 percent goal.

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Parents are misidentified

The Press misidentified the parents of scholarship recipient Andrea Dempsey as Luke and Kasanya Mobley in the July 25 edition. They are her brother-in-law and sister. Ms. Dempsey's parents are Willie Louis Dempsey, Sr. and Lou Angela Daniels Riley.



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MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Annexes 228 parcel for bank

MIKE ANDERSON PRESS STAFF

Macclenny city commissioners annexed one property for a new bank and tentatively approved the annexation of a second parcel for a retail store last week. But it was a property that was not brought into the city that drew a crowd of protesters to the meeting the evening of August 13.

Dozens of people went to city hall to voice their opposition to a proposed annexation of six acres for a road construction company and materials storage yard near the entrance to the Macclenny II subdivision.

They didn't realize, at least not immediately, they had already evidently won the battle.

At the outset, Mayor Gary Dopson informed the audience that the item had been withdrawn from the agenda earlier in the day at the request of the applicant, David Burnham, owner of Burnham Construction Co. in Macclenny.

Mr. Burnham had planned to buy the land, located between Tom Norman Road and Estates Street just east of the Travelodge on SR 121, and move his business there from its present location on South 7th Street. But his plans drew fire at the commission's first hearing on July 9 and intensified in the subsequent weeks.

Macclenny II is a neighborhood just outside the city limits in the county. Mayor Dopson told the residents that Mr. Burnham's proposed business would help increase the city's tax base but that city officials were concerned about their objections to the proposal.

"If we wanted to be totally selfish we would just take this in without much of a hearing," the mayor said. "The fact that we're having this hearing (which is required by law) shows that we do have concerns and like to treat people fairly."

He said he had reservations about the proposal from the beginning because he would prefer not to rezone residential property for commercial or industrial purposes adjacent to single-family residences without sufficient buffers or less intensive zoning between them.

On the other hand, he said, the property's close proximity to SR 121 and Interstate 10, and directly behind a motel, make it suitable for some type of business in the future, perhaps a restaurant.

5 domestic violence arrests

County deputies made arrests in five of six domestic disturbances they were called to in the past week, including one involving the owner of a local bail bonding business.

Richard "Vince" McDuffie, 41, of Macclenny was jailed the evening of August 13 for allegedly using force against wife DeAnna McDuffie, 42, during an altercation at their residence on Lloyd St. in the east city.

Mrs. McDuffie told Deputy Chris Walker her husband manhandled her when she attempted to remove the keys to a Jeep belonging to her mother. Moments before, she said Mr. McDuffie accelerated the vehicle out of the garage, then spun tires across the lawn to a pond but stopped short of steering it into the water.

Deputy Walker noted bruising on the wife's arm and scratches on the arm of Mr. McDuffie, owner of Renee's Bail Bonds on US 90 downtown.

The officer said he later interviewed the accused at the home of an acquaintance in north Macclenny where he said his foot slipped off the Jeep's clutch and he nearly ran it into the pond. He said he tossed the keys in the pond after Mrs. McDuffie attempted to wrest them from his hand.

In another case later that evening, Deputy Robert Aberly arrested Lorenzo Major, 35, for felony battery on longtime live-in girlfriend Jody Castleman, 35, at their residence on Pine Oaks Circle off SR 121 South.

The girlfriend accused him of grabbing her by the neck and arm, then throwing her onto a

bed during an argument about 11:30. He left the residence, then returned and kicked down the front door to re-enter about the time the deputy arrived.

Mr. Major, who the officer said appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, denied the altercation was physical and said he resisted leaving the residence "because he paid all the bills."

Deputy Walker arrested Manda Wainwright, 47, at her residence on Frank Combs Circle in the north county the evening of August 17 following an altercation with her live-in boyfriend Charles Hobson, 67, and Dennie Fields, 53, a friend from Sanderson.

Ms. Wainwright is accused of punching Mr. Fields when he returned to the neighborhood about 9 pm when she was looking for her boyfriend, who was hiding in a nearby residence. She allegedly attempted to break down both front and rear doors at the

address. The girlfriend was also booked for domestic battery for making verbal threats against Mr. Hobson.

Donald Yonn, 54, was charged with domestic battery on wife Linda Yonn, 34, at their residence off Cleve Harvey Rd. the afternoon of August 16.

Ms. Yonn told Deputy James Marker she was shoved, as was a teenage daughter. Mr. Yonn also allegedly tossed clothing and shoes at a 10-year-old step-son.

Deputy Koty Crews filed criminal complaints for domestic battery against both Amanda Harrell, 35, and her estranged ex-boyfriend Cregg Simpkins, 33, of Glen St. Mary after an altercation at Ms. Harrell's residence on Chipshot Dr. in the northwest city. The two told Deputy Crews an argument broke out during a custody exchange the evening of August 14. They accused each other of physical force.

Industrial development, they said, "is not suitable surrounded by residential homes." They further noted that the city's 2025 Comprehensive Plan expresses a desire to preclude "spot" zoning and to ensure that future land uses are compatible.

"The (proposed) annexation and rezoning of this parcel in this existing neighborhood with the intention to place in a different zone is to benefit one individual," the letter said. "It does not benefit the health, welfare and safety

of this community." Later, after most of the people cleared out of the commission chambers, the board voted to approve the annexation of a 1.05-acre parcel between the Murphy Oil gas station and Starbucks in front of Walmart on SR 228.

The request was filed by Farmers & Merchants Bank. As part of the negotiations to secure the annexation, city officials agreed to waive property taxes for up to five years, a concession that did not sit well with the mayor.

"In the future, before any tax exemption is handed out I want it to come before the city commission," Mr. Dopson said.

Mr. Rhoden, who became the city manager in April, said his predecessor, Gerald Dopson, had negotiated the deal with Farmers & Merchants Bank, describing the tax break as "a negotiating tool that is beneficial to us."

The other property up for annexation is a 2.3-acre vacant parcel at 9557 SR 121, about half a mile south of I-10. Officials said the site will be zoned commercial general for an undisclosed retail store.

A final hearing is scheduled for consideration at 6 pm on September 9. The next regular board meeting was rescheduled from September 10 to avoid conflicting with municipal elections that day.

In other business last week commissioners:
• Adopted a proclamation dubbing September as Muscular Dystrophy Association Firefighter Appreciation Month in Mac-

clenny. City firefighters will be collecting donations to help fight the crippling diseases associated with MS at the intersection of SR 121 and US 90 for the next couple of weekends.

Scheduled a public hearing for 5:30 pm on September 10 to consider the 2013-14 budget and tax rate, which city officials said will remain the same as last year.

The final tax and budget hearing will begin at 5:30 pm on September 24.

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

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From left: Chris Mullaney, Ryder Leary, Bradley Mason Bean and Jacqueline Hozz in Prague.

Attends Prague forum Y director's first foreign foray

**JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR**
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Baker County YMCA executive director Ryder Leary recently returned from a summit in Prague, the capitol of the Czech Republic, as one of 30 U.S. delegates at the YMCA Europe Festival Love 2 Live.

There some 5000 young people from across the globe gathered "to celebrate life, celebrate culture, celebrate diversity and celebrate all that is inspiring about being young in Europe and the wider world," according to the event's website.

Mr. Leary, 28, of the Avondale neighborhood in Jacksonville, said it was his first trip abroad, save a family vacation to Jamaica as a youth.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience from start to finish," he said. "Every moment we had something exciting to do. There was never a shortage of stuff to learn."

Mingling with other cultures and learning how YMCA's in other countries run their programs was the most interesting part of the trip for Mr. Leary, who took the helm at the Baker County Y about a year ago after four years with the First Coast YMCA in Jacksonville.

The regional organization sent Mr. Rider, two other staffers, two college students from the Y's Camp Immokalee program and a high school student affiliated with the Y on the trip.

While in Prague they participated in workshops, leadership training, performances, music, sports

and cultural events.

An international planning team that included Mr. Rider has worked over the past three years on a diverse and relevant program for all based on YMCA Europe's flagship initiatives: integration, social justice, healthy living and peace.

Mr. Ryder said the YMCA is represented in nearly every country in the world, though they serve different needs in different places. In some countries the Y may focus on combating poverty, education, building homes or environmental cleanup.

"The number one thing I pulled away from the trip, beyond just being in a foreign country that's a new and different thing for myself and the other delegates, was the nuances of cultural communication," he said. "You're surrounded by people from 270 countries, and learning to deal with the different cultures and how people communicate. Some cultures are very standoffish while others are very up front."

The delegates from the First Coast region hope to share their experiences at the festival at area YMCAs, high schools and colleges to encourage more appreciation of diversity, culture and heritage through global connections, reads a press release on the trip.

"The First Coast Y is really going global," added Mr. Leary. "This is one of the first global experiences our association has had. We're very excited about the things we brought back and getting the experience to these young people."

Home improvement efficiencies

(StatePoint) Want to save time and money? If you're a homeowner, consider improvement projects that can reduce the need for ongoing home maintenance. You'll find the upfront cost and energy well worth it down the line.

It could be as simple as replacing older materials with newer products that are longer-lasting and less susceptible to wear and tear, say experts.

"Every element of your home's exterior will eventually need to be replaced," says Mark Clement a professional contractor and host of the MyFixItUpLife home improvement radio show. "When that happens, make a sound investment by opting for energy efficient, durable products that can reduce your maintenance efforts."

Not sure where to start? Beginning with the exterior of your home will give you the added benefit of boosting your house's curb appeal. Clement offers homeowners a handy checklist:

The Roof
Look for problem areas, such as missing or broken shingles, along with roofing tiles that are "flapping" in the wind. These indicate that a new roof may be in your future. Newer products on the market, such as polymer shake and slate roofing tiles, are impact-resistant. And some tiles, like those from DaVinci Roofcaps, are fire- and impact-resistant. Along with helping protect against potential wildfires and severe weather, these roofs often come with a homeowner insurance discount. They also have a 50-year limited warranty.

Windows

If you find the windows in your home don't operate easily, there's air leaking in or out of the units or condensation builds up between the glass panes, it may be time to replace them. Consider vinyl framed windows, which are energy-efficient, visually appealing and durable. Plus, they don't come with the maintenance hassles of wood windows, such as rotting frames, scraping and repainting.

"Every element of your home's exterior will eventually need to be replaced," says Mark Clement a professional contractor and host of the MyFixItUpLife home improvement radio show. "When that happens, make a sound investment by opting for energy efficient, durable products that can reduce your maintenance efforts."

Accessory Features

Check shutters, trim and louvers. Look for water spots, decay or peeling paint to see if they're deteriorating, suffering from insect infestations or warping. When it's time to replace these items, select low-maintenance urethane or PVC products, like those from Pypon. The lightweight pieces are easy to install, add curb appeal and resist mois-

ture.

Main Entry Door

Can you see light around your door from the inside? Is the door hard to close or lock? Is the door itself warped? These are signs it's time to replace your entry door. And even if you can't see light, air may be moving through gaps in the weather stripping at a surprising rate.

Consider replacing an entryway with a high-performance fiberglass door, like those from Therma-Tru. Fiberglass doors can have up to four times more insulating value than wood doors. And, selecting a door with all its components made by the same manufacturer — such as weatherstripping, sills and sweep — assures that you're purchasing a strong, reliable entry door. For more home improvement tips, visit www.myfixituplife.com.

If you have limited time and resources to complete home improvement projects, stick to those upgrades that will have a lasting impact.

Reckless driving arrest

A Jacksonville man who told a county deputy he was lost while speeding through a north Macclenny neighborhood early on August 18 was arrested for reckless driving.

Deputy Chris Walker said he was on routine patrol on North Boulevard about 4 am when he spotted a 2004 Nissan traveling eastbound at an estimated 65 miles per hour. The vehicle sped through three stop signs before Carlos Rodriguez-Morales attempted to reverse direction at Ohio St., nearly missing the deputy's cruiser in the process.

Mr. Morales said he was attempting to get back to his address on Jacksonville's westside.

In other arrests, the mother of a female patient at Northeast Florida State Hospital was charged with disorderly conduct after she allegedly became unruly following a meeting with hospital administration the afternoon of August 13.

Michael Crews, chief of security at NEFSH, told

Deputy Earl Lord that Guidadem Tekam, 46, of Jacksonville, refused to leave the grounds or quiet herself after the meeting about 1 pm.

She reportedly was upset because her daughter has been at the mental hospital eight years. Deputy Lord said the woman continued to yell and ignore his requests to calm herself en route to county jail, where she was booked for the misdemeanor offense.

• William Curran, 49, of Glen St. Mary was charged with disorderly intoxication when he was found lying on a grassy strip at the north end of the Winn-Dixie building on South 6th St. late on August 15.

Deputy Brandon Kiser said he responded about 11:45 to a report of a male yelling at passing motorists. He described Mr. Curran as unable to stand upright and "heavily intoxicated" to the extent that he was cleared at Fraser Hospital before being taken to jail.

Son's girlfriend arrested for theft of her tax return

A Macclenny woman was arrested August 13 for theft of a tax return earlier this year belonging to her boyfriend's mother.

Shauna Taylor, 35, admitted under questioning by sheriff's deputies that she arranged to have a \$1487 refund deposited electronically into her Vystar Credit Union account. The money belonged to Katherine Pryde, 71, her neighbor on Lauramore Rd.

Ms. Pryde told Deputy Clements Leo that the accused kept putting her off when asked about the return, and she eventually learned from the IRS the refund had been transferred to an account at Vystar that turned out to be the suspect's.

The deputy then spoke with Ms. Taylor, who gave him vague and inconsistent statements, including that her account had been frozen. Later at county jail, the suspect continued to give ill-defined statements as to what

happened to the refund. She was arrested for obtaining money by fraud and grand theft, both third-degree felonies.

In other recent arrests, Joseph Kirkland, 20, of Macclenny was charged with felony possession of a single Oxycodone pill that he allegedly attempted to conceal under the passenger seat of a pickup truck stopped in the west city late on August 12.

Deputy Chris Walker said he stopped the 1995 Ford driven by Hannah West, 18, of Raiford for having a faulty tag light.

• Casey Hand, 32, of Interlachen, FL was re-arrested on August 16 for violating probation shortly after she was brought back to county jail from Putnam County.

Ms. Hand had served time there for larceny, and was on probation here for petty theft.

• Deputy Walker arrested Dustin Donnelly, 21, of Macclenny early on August 13 on a

Trio of shoplifters caught at Walmart

Police arrested a trio of Walmart shoplifters during a three-day period last week, including a Macclenny man who tore the price labels off two men's necklaces before attempting to leave the store.

A security worker observed Andrew Thronton Sr., 43, take the necklaces valued at \$30 from the jewelry department to hardware where he tore off the labels about 3 pm on August 15.

Other arrests:
• The same employee detained Pamela Starling, 47, of Macclen-

ny in the early afternoon August 14 after observing her place fish food and soap in her purse before walking past the check-out stations.

Value of the merchandise was \$5.50.

• Joseph Kennedy, 20, of Glen St. Mary was detained the afternoon of August 13 when he attempted to leave the store with a hitch cover and bearings from the automotive department.

He was seen placing the items in his pockets about 4:45. The merchandise was valued at \$48.

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SPECIAL EXCEPTION
Mr. Joe Ramirez is requesting a special exception for the property he is leasing at 698F West Macclenny Ave. in Macclenny, FL. This property is zoned Commercial General and is currently used as a restaurant. The special exception is for a full liquor license on premises only and the drive thru window would be used for food and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be a Zoning Adjustment Board meeting held on September 5, 2013 at 5:00 pm at City Hall. Any support or objections may be heard at this time.

Arrested for burglaries Caught with stolen items in Glen

A county deputy arrested a Glen St. Mary man for theft of property from a vacant residence on Odys Yarbrough Rd. between August 9-10.

Owner Kevin Crews reported the burglary on August 10 after noticing four broken windows on two buildings, then finding that fishing tackle worth \$300 was taken from a boat in the shed.

On August 12, Mr. Crews again contacted Deputy Chris Walker after he learned that an air compressor and air tools were missing from the garage. He placed their value at \$750.

Deputy Walker questioned Daniel Nobles, 23, on August 13 after finding him on the property of Ray's Rental on US 90 in east Glen St. Mary. He said the suspected addict suspiciously had a compressor and air tools in his vehicle.

The officer summoned Mr. Crews to the scene and he identified the property as his. Mr. Nobles then confessed to the burglary, and led police to the location of the tackle box at his residence on Wildcat Alley in the

same neighborhood as the victim.

He was charged with felony criminal mischief, grand theft and burglary, and also booked for loitering at the rental lot where he initially said he went to siphon off a wi-fi signal.

Police have some tentative leads as to who may be responsible for stealing several thousand dollars worth of property from a garage and hunting camp office off Wiregrass Place near Glen St. Mary.

Richard Jenkins told Deputy Robert Simpkins a gate to the property was removed from its hinges when he checked on it August 14. He last had been there on August 8.

A jon boat and trailer belonging to L.D. Bradley Surveying in Jacksonville were taken from the side of the building. A 2004 Honda ATV valued at \$4500 and belonging to Alan Lesley of Jacksonville was among property taken from the garage portion.

Tools belonging to Mr. Jenkins and valued at \$2020 were also taken from the garage, and

an assault rifle and scope valued at \$500 were missing from the living quarters portion of the structure.

In other theft reports:
• Electrical wiring was stolen from under a mobile home under renovation following a fire off Donnie Moran Rd. south of Glen St. Mary during a two-week period ending on August 13.

Owner Ronnie Moran placed the cost of replacement and labor at \$3200. A neighbor told Deputy John Hardin she heard barking dogs and saw a vehicle driving from the area in the early morning hours of either July 29 or 30.

• Kimberly Norrell of Sanderson returned to a rented storage garage on E. Florida Ave. in Macclenny on August 17 to find it had been looted of an estimated \$2000 worth of property.
The lock on the unit at America's Best Storage had been cut to gain entry, and Ms. Norrell told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite she had last been at the location on August 13.

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Back from left: Trey Sinclair, Sara Matukaitus, Darryl Register, Priscella McCarty, Winnie Holland and Judy Becker.

Grant supports Kiwanis 'Reading in the Park'

The Florida Kiwanis Foundation awarded the Kiwanis Club of Baker County a \$500 grant to support a reading project.

This fall the club will hold a Reading in the Park with Kiwanis event. Children will be invited to come to Friendship Park in Glen St. Mary on a Saturday morning. Readers will be on hand with books and stories. After lunch each child will be given a book to take home.

Division 4 presented the check to the club this summer. Foundation Trustee Winnie Holland explained that this is the first year that the foundation has given mini-grants to clubs. Lt. Governor Sara Matukaitus had encouraged the club to apply and plans to be one of the readers.

The details of the event are not yet finalized. Information about the event will be sent through the schools and this newspaper.

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BAKER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063
CATHERINE B. GOLON
Director of Nutrition Services, Purchasing and Warehousing
"Where Children Are First!"
Phone: (904) 259-4330
259-2825
Dear Parent/Guardian:
August 1, 2013

Welcome Back to School! NEW THIS YEAR! New students will be assigned a five (5) digit student meal identification number (bar code or pin number). Returning students will keep their number from the prior year. This is the number that a student enters on a "keypadd" when obtaining a meal in the cafeteria. Each student's unique number is confidential and provided to the student on his/her class schedule. Good News: Prices are the same as last school year. Meal prices for the 2013-2014 school year are listed below:

Elementary Schools, Grade Pre-K – Grade 6, Breakfast \$1.50, Lunch \$2.00
Middle and High School, Grade 7 – Grade 12, Breakfast \$1.50, Lunch \$2.50

We strive to keep meal prices competitive while operating a cost effective program. Most of all, our goal is to offer nutritious meals that meet United States Department of Agriculture requirements and regulations. New this year, students will be required to take at least one (1) fruit or vegetable with each reimbursable lunch.

In order to do this, we need your help and ask that you keep current with your child's meal account. Meal prepayment is always an option for parents, as well as qualification for free or reduced price meals. Should you wish to prepay, the chart provided below may be helpful:

Students in Grades Pre-K - 6	Full Price		Reduced Price		Students in Grades 7 - 12	Full Price		Reduced Price	
	Breakfast and Lunch	Lunch Only	Breakfast and Lunch	Lunch Only		Breakfast and Lunch	Lunch Only	Breakfast and Lunch	Lunch Only
Weekly Cost (5 day week)	\$17.50	\$10.00	\$3.50	\$2.00	Weekly Cost (5 day week)	\$20.00	\$12.50	\$3.50	\$2.00
9 Weeks Cost (45 days)	\$157.50	\$90.00	\$31.50	\$18.00	9 Weeks Cost (45 days)	\$180.00	\$112.50	\$31.50	\$18.00
Semester Cost (90 days)	\$315.00	\$180.00	\$63.00	\$36.00	Semester Cost (90 days)	\$360.00	\$225.00	\$63.00	\$36.00
Yearly Cost (180 days)	\$630.00	\$360.00	\$126.00	\$72.00	Yearly Cost (180 days)	\$720.00	\$450.00	\$126.00	\$72.00

Note that these meal prices do not include cost of extra items purchased or foods sold a la carte. Extra items are available at all schools. Should you wish your child to receive meals only, please notify the school cafeteria. Snacks and extra foods may not be charged.

All elementary schools through Grade 5 may prepay to avoid charging meals or eating on credit. Note that any payment received once debt is incurred will go towards the debt first and then future meals. **No student will be allowed to eat on credit for breakfast.**

All secondary schools, Baker County Middle School and High School students are **NOT** permitted to eat on credit. Note that incoming 6th graders to Baker County Middle School may not charge meals. **Please prepay for meals and keep current so that your child may receive a meal.** Again, on line prepayment is available.

Should you wish to pay in advance, you may do so by the week, month, or in any increment you wish. Any student who has a cafeteria debt will **NOT** be allowed to participate in field trips until the debt is paid in full.

Direct specific questions to your school's Nutrition Service Manager as listed below:
Pre-K/Kindergarten/6th Grade Center Cindy Sanders (904) 259-0375
Macclenny Elementary School Cindy Scott (904) 259-2881
Westside Elementary School Marlene Rhoden (904) 259-6633
Keller Intermediate School Penny Raulerson (904) 259-4331
Baker County Middle School Nancy Ashy (904) 259-3020
Baker County High School Jeri Harvey (904) 259-5960

Once again, your School Nutrition Service staff is looking forward to serving you.

Sincerely, Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services

PUBLIC RELEASE

The Baker County School Board announces its policy for Free and Reduced Price meals available for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The district's administrative office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Any interested person may review a copy of the policy by contacting Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services, 392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063, telephone number (904) 259-4330.

Household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility. These criteria can be found on the second page of this document. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals. An application can not be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information. Once approved, meal benefits are good for an entire year. You need not notify the organization of changes in income and household size.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

Households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) are required to list on the application only the child's name, Food Stamp / TANF case number, and signature of adult household member.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals, as well as Homeless/Displaced, Runaway and Migrant children regardless of household income. Please contact your child's school or the Nutrition Services Office at (904) 259-4330 if you do not receive a notice of eligibility stating your child will receive free meals.

Households with children who are considered migrants, homeless, or runaway should contact the district liaison, Susan Voorhees at (904) 259-6776.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members are considered a part of the household. Families should include the names of the deployed service members on their application. Report only that portion of the deployed service member's income made available to them or on their behalf to the family. Additionally, a housing allowance that is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative is not to be included as income.

All other households must provide the following information listed on the application:

- Total household income listed by gross amount received, type of income (e.g., wages, child support, etc.) and how often the income is received by each household member;
- Names of all household members;
- Signature of an adult household member certifying the information provided is correct; and
- The last four digits of the social security number of the adult signing the application or the word "NONE" for this household member if he or she does not have a social security number.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the school should be contacted. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed should also contact the school. Such changes may make the student eligible for reduced price or free meals if the household income falls at or below the levels shown below.

Under the provisions of the Free and Reduced Price meal policy Cathy B. Golon, Director of Nutrition Services, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he or she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent wishes to make a formal appeal, he or she may make a request either orally or in writing to Sherrie Raulerson, Superintendent of Schools, Baker County School Board, 392 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida 32063, or by telephone at (904) 259-6251.

Unless indicated otherwise on the application, the information on the Free and Reduced Price Meal application may be used by the school system in determining eligibility for other educational programs.

*In accordance with Federal law, and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FLORIDA INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS Effective from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Free Meal Scale is 130% of Federal Poverty Level

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	14,937	1,245	623	575	288
2	20,163	1,681	841	776	388
3	25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489
4	30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589
5	35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690
6	41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790
7	46,293	3,858	1,929	1,781	891
8	51,519	4,294	2,147	1,982	991
Each additional family member, add	5,226	436	218	201	101

Reduced Meal Scale is 185% of Federal Poverty Level

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	21,257	1,772	886	818	409
2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
Each additional family member, add	7,437	620	310	287	144

To determine annual income:
• If you receive the income every week, multiply the total gross income by 52.
• If you receive the income every two weeks, multiply the total gross income by 26.
• If you receive the income twice a month, multiply the total gross income by 24.
• If you receive the income monthly, multiply the total gross income by 12.

Remember: The total income before taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues, or other deductions must be reported.

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

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Ruth Davis, 86, dies on August 16th

Ruth Davis, 86, of Macclenny died on August 16, 2013 at her residence with family by her side. She was born in Jacksonville on November 18, 1926 to the late Aaron Thrift and Lula Burnsed Thrift. Ruth was raised in Georgia and spent the last 41 years in Baker County. She enjoyed being a homemaker and taking care of her family. Ruth attended Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandson and great-granddaughter. She enjoyed collecting dolls and traveling to the Smokey Mountains with her close family. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and one sister.

Mrs. Davis is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, James Earl Davis of Macclenny; daughter Beverly Davis (Willie F.) Brantley of Macclenny; grandson James Dustin (Stephanie) Brantley of Bryceville; great-granddaughter Katelynn Ruth Brantley.
The funeral service was held on Monday, August 19 at 1 pm at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services chapel in Macclenny with Elder David Crawford officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Jack Harrelson, 80, retired truck driver

Wilmer "Jack" Franklin Harrelson, 80, of Macclenny died on August 17, 2013 at his residence. He was born in Tattall County, Georgia on October 29, 1932 to the late Clyde Harrelson and Ouida Glisson Harrelson. Jack was a resident of Baker County since 1977 after moving from Jacksonville. He served his country proudly in the United States Marine Corps and retired from Kennedy Trucking in Jacksonville as a driver in 1995 after many years of dedicated service. Jack enjoyed riding motorcycles, buying new cars frequently, following Nascar and reading Louis L'Amour novels. He was always full of humor and knew how to make people feel comfortable. He was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife of 40 years, Margie Harrelson.

Mr. Harrelson is survived by daughters Pamela (Lester) Griffis and Teresa Ann (Kevin) Walker of Macclenny, and Mary (George) Thompson of Jacksonville; grandchildren Dale Burnsed, Cassandra Malbasic, Jeremy Thompson, Amanda Gore, Reginald Beliveau, and Nathaniel Beliveau; 14 great-grandchildren.
The funeral service will be held on Friday, August 23 at 11 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services chapel in Macclenny with Pastor David Ragan officiating. Interment will follow at Macedonia Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 22 from 6-8 pm at the funeral home.

Russell Wiesemeyer, 58, dies July 26

Russell Wiesemeyer, 58, of Macclenny died during the early morning hours of July 26, 2013 with family by his side.

Mr. Wiesemeyer enjoyed iron working, football and Nascar, and was a very giving man. He was predeceased by parents Robert and Martha Wiesemeyer and granddaughter Kaitlyn Wiesemeyer.

He is survived by daughters Martha (Thomas) Smith of Glen St. Mary, Melissa Wiesemeyer of Macclenny and Jennifer Wiesemeyer of Jacksonville; son Russell Wiesemeyer of Sanderson; nine grandchildren.

A private memorial will be held by his family at a later date.

Amie Hodges, 78, of Macclenny dies on August 16

Amie Louise Hodges, 78, of Macclenny died on Friday, August 16 at Frank Wells Nursing Home in Macclenny following an extended illness. She was born in Baxter and resided in Baker County all of her life. She was a homemaker and a member of the Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church. For many years she resided in the nursing home, where she enjoyed her social life and playing bingo. She dearly loved her friends and family at the nursing home. She was preceded in death by husband George "Woodie" Hodges, parents Alfred and Gennie Ruth Raulerson, daughter Gennie Ruth Yonn, grandson Kyle Jacob Yonn, sisters Mary Peeler and Elizabeth Peck, and brother Buck Mann.

Mrs. Hodges is survived by daughters Sherrie (David) Galloway of Macclenny, Cindy (Eddie) Norman of Glen St. Mary and Georganna (Ricky) Griffith of Sanderson; son Tim (Carolyn) Hodges of Sanderson; son-in-law James Yonn of Lake Butler; grandchildren Erik Yonn, Jessie Milton, Joe Hodges, Jody Aberly, Christi Iverson, Brad Norman and Carol Galloway; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sisters Gracie Canaday of Albany, Ga and Faye Nettles of Glen St. Mary; brother Bill Raulerson of Sanderson.

The funeral service was conducted at 3 pm on Monday, August 19 in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with Rev. David Thomas, pastor of Christian Fellowship Temple officiating, assisted by Rev. David Dinkins. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Macclenny.

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Thanks so much

The family of Debbie D. Davis would like to thank everyone for their prayers, food, flowers, thoughts and every act of kindness shown to us during her illness and our loss. A special "thank you" to our families for being there and supporting us when we needed you the most. Thanks to Dr. Jim Bullion and Rev. Jay Weldon for their words of faith and comfort. Thanks to Sherrie Davis for her heartfelt solo of "Amazing Grace." To Bill Guerry and his staff for going above and beyond to meet our needs here at home, and to Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Home in Albany, GA for their kindness and guidance during this time of sorrow, and to Joseph and Jason Dubé for doing the commitment for our family. Thanks to our church families at St. Patrick's Episcopal, Cedar Creek and Dinkins Church for being there for us and for the wonderful food. Special thanks to Sheriff Joey Dobson for his graciousness in arranging an escort from I-10 to Cedar Creek Cemetery. May God richly bless each and every one of you, and please keep us in your prayers.

Jimmy and Andy Davis and the Dubé family of Albany. The Carlton Davis family of Sanderson



In loving memory of Charles John Morris Happy Anniversary August 24 would have been 10 years. I miss you so much. Marriage means different things to different people, but I know that I was loved. I couldn't ask for a better father. Sometimes I wish I could go back and do things differently. Life is too short to fight about anything. If you love someone, tell them and show them every day. I love you Charles!

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

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Johnny Lamb elects to study engineering, play at LaGrange

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

Former BCHS basketball player Johnny Lamb opted to continue his career at the collegiate level by signing to LaGrange College.

He received the offer after trying out for several other schools, including Saint Leo University and Santa Fe. Mr. Lamb said he was happy to receive an offer from LaGrange University, which is located about an hour south of Atlanta.

"It's a pretty nice college," he said. "It's one of the oldest private schools in Georgia. It's a pretty sweet school."

Mr. Lamb works just as hard off the court as he does on it, and academics played a big role in his decision to attend LaGrange. He graduated high school with a 3.5 GPA and is planning on majoring in engineering.

The offer is coming on the heels of his most successful season for the Wildcats, when he averaged 10 points and almost six rebounds a game en route to being named the NEFCOM Player of the Year.

"He exemplifies everything we want in our players," BCHS basketball Head Coach Charles Ruise said. "He's a model student athlete."

Mr. Lamb will get his first taste of college basketball after he arrives on campus when the

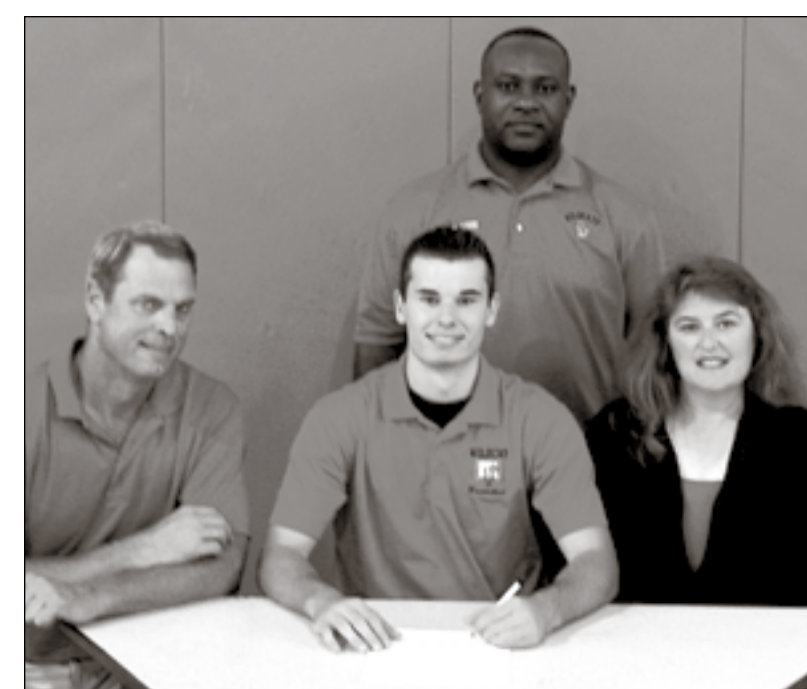


PHOTO BY JON SHUMAKE
Front from left: Bill Lamb, Johnny Lamb, Robin Lamb and Coach Charles Ruise in rear.

Falcons hold conditioning. He said he's looking forward to potentially contributing to the team as a forward during his freshman year.

"We're supposed to be an up and coming team, so if we can come in and make the team better, then it's all good," Mr. Lamb said. "I hope to get some playing

time and a couple of dunks."

Coach Ruise said he's proud of everything his former player has accomplished.

"I wish him all the luck in the world," Coach Ruise said. "He will always be a Wildcat and he is always welcomed back."

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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

Crawford reunion

The annual reunion of the Bart and Emma Crawford family will be held on Labor Day, September 2 at the home of Auzzie and Bertha Crawford in Taylor.

Paper goods and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a picnic basket. Lunch begins at 1 o'clock.

Remember: the rain brings mosquitoes

Due to the heavy rainfall and isolated flooding throughout the state this summer, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) emphasizes the importance of residents and visitors protecting themselves against mosquito-borne diseases. To prevent mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business, individuals should remember to drain and cover.

Drain standing water: Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain-water has collected. Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used. Empty and clean birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week. Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water. Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover your skin: Clothing - If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves. Repellent - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30 percent DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old. Cover doors and windows with screens: Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches and patios. Symptoms of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, and confusion. For more, visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>

Empty and clean birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week. Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water. Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

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IFAS open house 9/14

UF IFAS Baker County Extension Open House and 4-H Kick-Off will be held Saturday, September 14 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The event will be held at the Baker County Ag Center, 4-H will offer face painting, a fire truck with Sparky the fire dog, fund, games and information on joining. You will also be able to learn and the horticulture and master gardener programs, participate in the growing microgreens workshop plus purchase vegetable and ornamental plants. There will be a fall vegetable seed giveaway that day too.

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Volleyball preseason classic at Stanton

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

Coach Heather Sulkowski's BCHS volleyball program has been hard at work all summer preparing for the upcoming season, which gets underway August 23 with the Volleyball Preseason Classic at Stanton.

The Wildcats will play three games during Friday's preseason action against Raines, Paxon and Trinity. It will give the players one final chance to work on techniques before the regular season starts August 27 at Suwannee.

The preseason games not only allow the Wildcats to gain experience on the court, but they will also get an idea on how they stack up against other teams in the district.

"It gives us a scouting opportunity as well," Coach Sulkowski said. "We get to play Paxon and Trinity, who are both on our schedule. We get to see what some of the teams in our district has."

Coach Sulkowski said the team matches up well with most of the teams in the district and should be competitive as one of the best teams. Baker County's four-game district schedule begins September 5 at Paxon.

But the game that could determine the team's season is the September 10 matchup against Bishop Kenny. The Wildcats will have to play together as a team if they want a chance to knock off the perennial district frontrunners, the head coach said.

"Hopefully we'll be improved enough to slip one by them, but we'll see," she said. "If we serve well and hit well, we can get past them. We'll have to have a lot of ball control in order to hang with them."

The Wildcats shouldn't have



From left: Ashton Alford and Callie Elledge.

a problem playing together as a team this season, which has been one of the program's biggest downfalls in the past, Coach Sulkowski said. The team has experienced players at key positions, as Juniors Callie Wheeler and Malory O'Steen are entering their third years in the program, while senior Taylor Hancock is expected to become a leader on the court.

The veteran players, along with the experience gained from

summer ball, has led to a team chemistry that could push the Wildcats to the top of the district.

"Our team has really bonded over the past couple of weeks," Coach Sulkowski said. "It's just a different atmosphere than what we've had in the past."

Baker County's regular season begins August 27 in Suwannee, and the team's first home game is September 3 when the Wildcats host Bartram Trail.



Above from left: Malory Osteen and Callie Wheeler. Below from left: Alexis Wendell and Abby Rice.



Ms. Register

Register signs on as new trainer

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The BCHS sports program has a new athletic trainer for the 2013-14 school year after retiring trainer Ida Fish retired at the end of the last school year.

Cassie Register, who graduated from Baker County High School in 2010, will take over the post. She graduated from Florida State University in three years with a bachelor's degree in exercise science. She said she's happy to return to her alma mater.

"It's good to be back," Ms. Register said. "It's a great opportunity to get some experience."

She will primarily work with the football team and will be responsible for making sure the players are taped up properly, watch for concussion symptoms and check players for injuries. If there are any significant injuries, it's up to her to refer them to a doctor.

Football won't be her only priority, though.

Ms. Register will also be an assistant coach for the girl's weightlifting team.

Her ultimate goal is to attend physical therapy school, and she will apply to the University of Florida, University of Central Florida and University of North Florida.

Classic starts Wildcat's pre-season

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

Finally, football is back. The BCHS Wildcat's football program will begin its quest for a second straight District 3-5A title Friday night when the team hosts the Ed White Commanders at Memorial Stadium in the Kick-off Classic.

The game is the first of 11 straight weeks of Wildcat football and the first chance coaches will get to see players in live action against another team. The starters will play through the first half, with the second and third string getting an opportunity to see the field in the second half.

"The Kickoff Classic is a glorified scrimmage," Head Coach Ryan Sulkowski said. "We don't put a lot of stock into it, but it is a good measuring stick with Ed White being a higher classification. We're going to find out real quick if the guys we have in certain positions can handle what we put on their plate."

The team will have to make any final roster decisions quickly, as the Wildcats start the regular season August 30 when they travel to Camden County. Playing against the defending Georgia Region 1-6A champions, which Coach Sulkowski called the "SEC of high school football," is a tough early season game, but it will give the players a chance to play on a bigger stage.

Scheduling a game against a team the caliber of Camden County will only prepare the Wildcats more for their upcoming district schedule, the head coach said.

"It's going to be a test, but we can go out and compete with anybody," he said. "That's really been our theory here: go out and line up and we'll play anybody at any point. That's what gets us ready for that playoff run and



Players square off during practice last week at BCHS.

week span," Coach Sulkowski said. "But we know on a week to week basis we're going to have to show up and play. We can't take a week off. That's how we have to approach every game, especially in a district where they matter."

But for now, Coach Sulkowski is preparing the Wildcats for the long season ahead.

"It's a grind," he said. "I told the players 'You don't have a Friday night off for 11 weeks now.' We're about to get after it."

tougher district opponents." The district schedule begins two weeks later following games against Bradford and Crescent City. The Wildcats are trying to defend the District 3-5A title, but it's not going to be easy.

"That title last year doesn't do anything for us this year," Coach Sulkowski said. "When you're up there in the top level, you're going to get everybody's best game."

The seven district games feature a mix of familiar foes and newcomers to the district. Ribault and Yulee both moved up from class 4A, while Wolfson and Stanton moved down from 6A to join the district. These teams join Baker County, Forrest, Paxon and Bishop Kenny.

Baker County begins district play September 20 when the Wildcats host Ribault. Although the Trojans are new to the district, the two teams are no strangers to each other. Ribault was responsible for keeping the Wildcats out of the playoffs in 2010.

But the most anticipated game may be the last one on the schedule.

The Wildcats will travel to Bishop Kenny November 1 in a game that could have major playoff implications. Baker County clinched the district title last season with a 49-3 victory on Bishop Kenny's home turf.

It was the Crusaders who had the last laugh, however, as they eliminated the Wildcats from the playoffs several weeks later. Now, the Wildcats want to avenge the playoff loss.

"We're looking forward to getting revenge and getting the sour taste out of our mouths," senior wide receiver Michael Boone said.

Coach Sulkowski doesn't want the team looking ahead too far, though. The players can't overlook any opponent if the team wants the game against Bishop Kenny to mean anything, he said.

"To open up the district slate with Ribault and close it out with Bishop Kenny, there's a lot that can happen in that seven-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY MATHIEWS

Future Wildcat cheer camp to perform during pregame

The girls pictured above are from the "BCHS Future Wildcat Cheerleader Clinic" held August 17 and led by Leslie Kerce and Kelley Mathews, the high school's varsity cheerleading sponsors. Thirty-eight youths participated in the clinic and they'll be featured in the pre-game festivities for Friday's Kick-off Classic at Memorial Stadium at 6:30 pm.

Jags look anew in first half

Okay. Who was the guy in Blaine Gabbert's jersey on Saturday night? Whoever it was, he looked great, going 14 for 16 for the Jaguars and hitting some strikes that were downright poetic.

It was not the same Gabbert that we saw against the Dolphins a week earlier. This looked like the guy we all hoped that we drafted two years ago.

He was incisive in his passing, he was decisive in his execution and the speed at which he operated the offense was nothing short of impressive. Some of his play action passes were incredibly quick. He faked to the running back, and zipped a pass out to Ace Sanders.

Sanders and Mike Brown have both looked great this pre-season. With top receiver Cecil Shorts on the sideline they have really performed. Watching the

Jaguars in the first half, I was really enthusiastic.

Then the wheels came off the team bus. Gabbert got a hair-line fracture to the thumb on his throwing hand, Chad Henne threw an interception, everything started to go wrong. In other words, the Jaguars were back on the field.

The pundits call the third preseason game – the All Important Third Pre-Season

Game. But for the Jaguars, who rewarded Gabbert with the starting role on day one, despite the fact that he won't be able to play another pre-season game, it will be Henne under center.

During the first quarter, the Jaguars looked as good as any team in the league. Their execution was flawless. Besides Gabbert, the running game looked dangerous. Maurice Jones-Drew got some reps and was able to

cut through defenses like a knife through hot butter.

Denard Robinson, who is listed on the roster as offensive weapon – was. He continues to

improve as a running back and return man. In pre-season you don't show all your wrinkles and so I wouldn't be surprised to see the former Michigan quarterback drop back and hurl the ball in the regular season.

The receivers have looked like receivers in the pre-season.

The past few years the Jaguar receivers have displayed hands of stone, but the speed Sanders and Brown have made some nice catches.

Just on the basis of watching the first unit, I am cautiously hopeful that we might snatch a few wins this season.

FAT LADY

ROBERT GERARD

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