



Pups strut their stuff to benefit county animal control shelter

See page 12

Livestock auction winners from the county fair

See page 11



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OCTOBER 10, 2013 THURSDAY

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 24 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism including General Excellence in 2012

BAKER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Family protests firing of McDonald

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Controversy surrounding the football coaches at Baker County High School continued at a meeting of the school board the evening of October 7 when family members of a well-respected coach raised objections about his abrupt dismissal from the football program a few weeks ago.

In a voice cracked with emotion, Elaine McDonald read a two-page, handwritten letter expressing her concerns about how and why her son, Scott McDonald, was removed from the job he had loved and held for a decade as an offensive line coach.

She described her son's love and passion for teaching teen athletes the game he played as a student at Baker County High and later at Jacksonville University, where he was an offensive lineman for four years and received a degree in history before returning to his alma mater.

"He was raised here. He wanted to come back here," she said, noting that her son tried to teach not only football skills on the field, but things like morals and integrity. That was taken away from him three weeks ago when he was stripped of his duties as a football coach after 10 successful years, she said.

"No, he's not Tom Covington," she said, referring to a legendary high school football coach who was as revered locally as Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant. "But he has the same love and compassion for the kids."

"He's heartbroken," she told the board. "Take into consideration what you have done to this man. All he wants to do is coach offensive line for the Wildcats. He doesn't want to be head coach."

Without making any specific reference to head football Coach Ryan Sulkowski and the attempted cover-up of his misuse of a school district credit card, the implication in her statement suggested that the family believes Mr. Sulkowski may have had something to do with her son's removal. Mr.

See page 4

County's building department director leaving for Lake City

See page 9



Pumpkin Patch now open...

The United Methodist Church of Macclenny's pumpkin patch will open October 9 at 11 am. Cadets with the high school's JROTC program helped unload the pumpkins delivered to the lot across from the church on North 5th Street the afternoon of October 7. The pumpkin patch will be open Wednesdays from 11 am to 5 pm, the other weekdays from 11 am to 7 pm, Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm and Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm through October 31. Above, JROTC cadet and high school freshman George Hunter, 16, of Macclenny sets down the pumpkins delivered to him by a string of volunteers unloading them from the back of a semi-trailer about 4:30 pm.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Commissioners: 'nix' to a raise

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

All five Baker County commissioners were entitled to a \$1,426 pay raise at the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. Instead, they chose to forgo the salary bump until county employees get a raise.

County workers have not received a pay raise in about six years, though they did get a \$1,000 one-time bonus during that time period, according to the human resources department. Board members said it wouldn't be right for them to get a raise if county employees' salaries remain frozen.

"I don't believe we should be getting a raise

until our county employees get one," Commissioner Jimmy Anderson said. "We should all be in the same boat."

Salaries for elected county officials are adjusted yearly by the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, based on a statutory formula keyed primarily to changes in population.

Because Baker County has not experienced significant growth in the past several years, the annual raises authorized for county commissioners have also remained relatively modest. Cumulatively, however, the extra money they're entitled to receive this year would represent a pay hike of about 5 percent.

If they accepted the raise, their salary this

year would jump from \$29,440 to \$30,866, said Human Resources Director Kathy Williams.

The issue was raised at the end of a county commission meeting on September 17 when the newest member of the board, James Croft, said he had recently received notification from the state concerning salary increases for county commissioners.

"I have declined the raise and will not accept it," said Mr. Croft, a minister who was elected in November 2012.

Mr. Anderson said he, too, got the same information and also decided to "turn it down."

See page 5

Fair ends 9-day run

The fair ended its nine-day run on October 5 with an evening rodeo, ventriloquist Jerry Breeden and other shows at the fairgrounds entertainment stage. Below are the beauty contest winners (from left) Queen Lacey England and runner up Christian Burnham. The princess contest winners were Victoria Lake Lewis in the young division, Emily Davis in the junior miss division and Addisyn Haddock in the little miss division. Runners up were Kristyn Boston, young, Katie Anderson, junior miss, and Timberlee Hance, little miss.



PHOTOS BY CATHY RHODEN (BELOW) AND JUD JOHNSON (RIGHT)

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS
How do you rate the 2013 Baker County Fair?
41% Bad
39% Worse than '12
10% Average
2% Better than '12

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SAND MINING UPDATE

Mining mediation underway this month

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Baker County Commission's denial of a sand mining proposal from Oldcastle Southern Group last summer was appealed to an administrative judge with mediation to begin this month.

But more is at stake in the outcome of that case than whether Oldcastle Southern Group will one day mine course sand from the Trail Ridge formation in the southeastern county, or how high the county's legal bills could get as its attorneys defend the commission's decision.

It appears that another mining company, much smaller than Oldcastle, will be closely following the mediation process and any litigation that could result. E.R. Jahna Industries of Lake Wales, FL is family-owned company founded in 1950 and headed by James A. Jahna.

It applied for the same special exception - to mine in lands zoned agriculture - as Oldcastle back in 2011. In fact, both companies began the local approval process in lock step.

The first hearings on the proposed mines, both using a hydraulic dredge technique to extract soil material, took place before the county's Land Planning Agency in May, 2012. E.R. Jahna's representatives presented its plan first, to mine an area north of US 90 and east of Macclenny, and then Oldcastle's proposal followed.

The LPA panel recommended the county commission approve both projects, but when they came before the board in June, a motion to deny both applications failed 4-1 with Commissioner Mark Hartley making the motion and casting the lone vote in favor. A motion to table both requests and wait for input from regulators and a third-party engineer passed, however.

Commissioners deferred both applications once again in August at the mining companies' request. It was then that the two companies appeared to part ways.

Oldcastle Southern Group, the Tampa-based subsidiary of a multi-national construction conglomerate headquartered in Ireland, undertook a public relations campaign to build public support for its effort.

Consultants and company officials met with local government and business lead-

See page 4

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COMMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

CONTACT US

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Glad Mr. Keller wasn't a general

We should be grateful that no Baker County public schools is named after a Confederate general.

Most people are probably aware the quarreling over whether to re-name Forrest High School in Jacksonville has begun anew. Proponents moan that Nathan Bedford Forrest was a murdering racist and founder of the Klu Klux Klan in the years immediately following the Civil War.

IMPRESSIONS
Jim McGauley

Opponents say leave it be, that General Forrest was a brilliant tactician who condemned the Klan for its violent leanings, and is heralded by historians as one of the best military minds of that dark period in history.

With the luxury to merely observe the debate, this thought reoccurs: why is a public school district with the challenges that Duval County has educating tens of thousands of children worried about the name of a high school?

Okay, if the school was Charles Manson Elementary or Lee Harvey Oswald Middle School, proponents of name change have a strong case. But a Civil War general? No one has drawn the link between removal of the name and anticipated improvement in student performance.

Nor will they be able to. We shouldn't be surprised the Forrest name debate has reignited; it's a given now that political correctness supersedes common sense in public discourse. Concepts, names, philosophies, religious beliefs and even health habits are now squeezed through the wringer of political correctness until they are "presentable" to a public that often cares little one way or another and generally has better things to do with its time.

Is anyone out there calling for students at Forrest and other high schools to immerse themselves in detailed study on America's bloodiest conflict that lasted from 1861 to 1865? How many of them would be able to recite those years, the names of the presidents North and South, the significance of Gettysburg, the reasons the war was fought, etc.?

Here's a clue: if it ain't on the FCAT, they probably don't know it.

The same debate current-

ly surrounds the Washington Redskins. The politically correct crowd grouses that the moniker is offensive to what we used to call Indians but now (at least this year) refer to as Native Americans.

Colleges in various parts of the country, mainly in the west and north-west, have changed to "non-offensive" team names in recent years, bowing to the same protests. That's not surprising since college campuses are the meccas of the politically cor-

rect, staffed by do-gooders with plenty of time of their hands and enabled by administrators frightened of their own shadows.

As for the Redskins, one was observed this week the team name is truly offensive because it contains the word "Washington." In light of the circus up there that passes itself off as a government, the remark couldn't have come at a more fitting time.

Naming public buildings and schools after people is a questionable practice at any level, unless of course the honorees have paid for the building

with private funds. Forrest and other schools in Jacksonville were named for Confederate generals, ostensibly as a protest to court-ordered integration, so you can see where this is going.

J. Franklyn Keller Intermediate is Baker County's only school named after a person, but we won't be hearing clamoring by the politically correct crowd. Mr. Keller was the county's first black principal, and it's a cinch neither he nor his forbearers were in the Confederate Army.

We dodged a bullet there.

Flood of support is overwhelming

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER
ROBERT GERARD

I hear a lot of complaints about Baker County. You could make a list to fill this page, I am told. But right now don't tell me any of them.

I am sitting in the cafeteria at Shands (UF Health Jacksonville). A few moments ago, I walked out of the ICU waiting room to find someplace quiet to compose my thoughts. I hope people don't mind tears running down my face as I write this note to you readers.

First an update. As I write this, my beloved daughter Sara Beth is in ICU after an horrific car crash last Tuesday morning. She was touched and go. But God guided the hands of the doctors and nurses and soon she was stabilized and moved to ICU. I won't go through the specifics of her injuries; that's not what this column is about. Suffice it to say that she is currently stable and improving. She is also a miracle.

Miracles happen. No matter what the outcome of this awful accident Kelley and I will always believe this. It is a miracle that I was sitting and holding her hand minutes ago.

This column is a chance for us to say thank you.

Thank you to the BCSO. Maj. Gerald Gonzalez literally picked us up off the side of the road when we were stuck in the miles-long traffic from the wreck and took us all the way to Shands dodging in and out of traffic with sirens blaring and lights flashing.

Thanks to Joey Dobson for sending Deputy Rodney Driggers and Rachel Sulkowski who retrieved our cars and brought them to Shands and Pastor Sam Kitching who comforted and prayed with us when we were at our worst.

Thanks to Jim McGauley and this newspaper for refusing to print reports until they heard an actual status from me.

Thanks to people — people all over this great county who prayed for our baby girl. I am convinced those prayers, and the ones that followed all the remaining day and all this week have kept her alive. We believe that and you'll never convince us otherwise. Ten pastors came and prayed with us.

I cannot begin to tell you what that means to us and her husband Aaron's family. We can feel your prayers supporting and buoying us.

Churches lifted her up. Sports teams took a knee and prayed. Students at the high school circled the flag and cried and prayed for a teacher they loved. I am told the crowd was so large that people could barely move.

The students and teachers have been amazing. The teachers have donated sick days to Sara Beth, brought food and cards and done everything you hope that a family would do to make our life easier and to help lift the burden from our shoulders.

The students have been equally wonderful. They made T-shirts with her name on it. They wore royal blue in honor of her. They wrote cards and letters in the hundreds. A huge banner with well-wishes and notes is draped in her room. The Homecoming Court is wearing blue ribbons and the floats will be bedecked with blue ribbons in honor of Sara Beth.

I want the students to know that we have read the cards and letters to her while she is sleeping and that a poem entitled *The One Who Cared* by one of her students hangs on her bulletin board. What they have written to her is a beautiful testament to her and to them as well.

The school has set up a bank account, as have her friends at Players by the Sea, and we thank you for that. People are doing things that we are not even aware of and some we are.

That is important and I thank you deeply for it.

But it is the tremendous love and support that we have felt hourly that has brought us to tears and back. The thousands of Facebook posts from around the world — the grandmother of a French girl Camille, our foreign exchange student a dozen years ago, is lighting prayer candles for Sara Beth in a Paris church — are humbling. They come from everywhere. A family with two small children was shopping when an older girl hugged the little girls and whispered in their ears. "What did she say," the mother asked.

"That we are Mrs. Sara Beth's Drama Camp family," the girls answered.

Though I am writing this thank you note, words cannot adequately express how we feel. Kelley and I have done nothing to deserve the overflowing of love that has been shown to our family.

When it is needed families pull together for their own. Our family and friends have been there for us. So too has this county and we will never be able to repay that.

A couple of days ago, the door of the ICU waiting room opened and in rolled Corey Craig and his family. Corey too was a miracle and he came to share with us how he made it through four months of treatment and to bring us a care package with the things we need for the long haul ahead of us. He didn't have to do that. We learned a lot and appreciated more.

A final word about the nurses here at Shands. You hear the phrase "angels of mercy" and they are consummate professionals who also care about their patients. Several have checked in on us on their days off, and others have come by before going home after their shift to tell us bye and give us last minute updates. It will be a long process and we don't know what's ahead of us. As Kelley says, it's a marathon, not a sprint.

Thank you doesn't say enough, but it's all we have.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

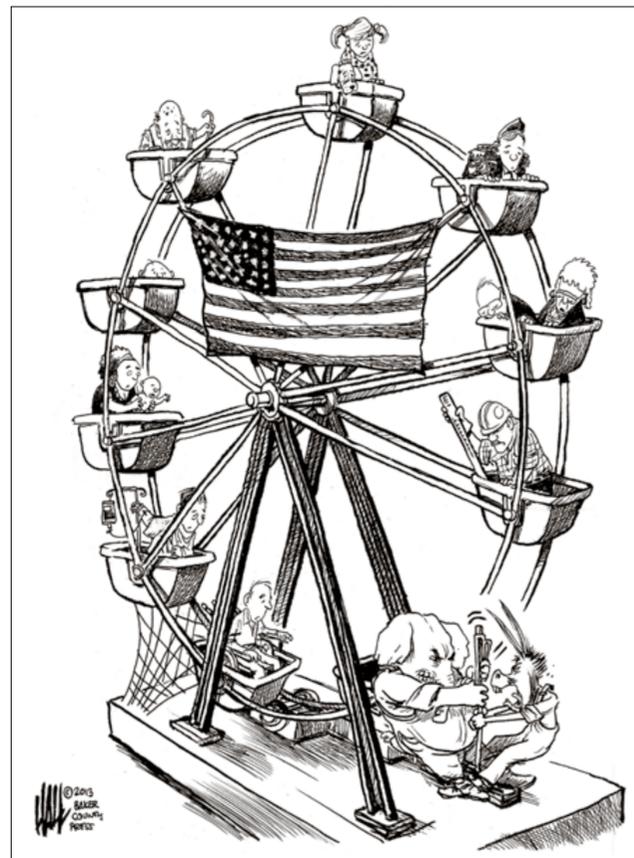
Where's the doctor?

Dear Editor:
My wife recently phoned the Baker County Health Department to confirm an appointment with Dr. Robinson, only to be told she was no longer there.

She had not been with the department that long, and several doctors have left there under what some say are questionable circumstances. And the health department isn't saying why when asked.

Many people in Baker County depend on the health department and have a right to know what is going on. I'm sure I'm not the only one asking this question.

Michael Rowe
Sanderson



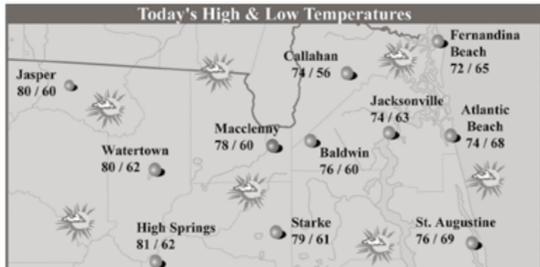
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FACEBOOK FANS
'What you had to say ...'
Government shutdown ... Who's fault is it?
With the federal government in the second week of its shutdown, and the Osceola National Forest closing, we asked our fans on Facebook who deserves the blame. Here's a look at some of the comments we received:
Nicholas Delgross: How can they shut down a forest? If I want to walk in the woods, what government can tell me not to do this on public land! We the people own that land so how can they tell me not to go?
Nick Mercorella: Obama and the Senate. It appears as if the House will negotiate. Obama does not have the authority to delay the employer mandate without Congress! The House can be talked into either delaying both employer and personal mandates or delaying neither and leave the law as is. Dems want it their way or to take the country down with them.
Pepper Scott Sr.: Obama, the Democrats and all the media that is controlled by them.
Lynne Boien: Politicians! Bunch of lazy good for nothings, getting paid to do diddly squat!
Janet Lauramore: All of them are to blame! We have a bunch of idiots running this country!
Dana Crawford-Pulley: John Boehner and the rest of the Republicans are the ones who brought on the shutdown — not President Obama. The House refused to agree to a budget until the ACA [Affordable Care Act] was defunded or repealed — even though it was passed in 2010, after revisions suggested by both the House and the Senate were proposed and voted on. Then it was upheld last year by the Supreme Court.
Carla Rhoden: The Democrats and Obama! They are not willing to negotiate period! They are trying to make everything as painful on the average American that they can!
Lynn Harvey Hand: I don't think you should have posted this. Now every illegal poacher around will be out hunting. Poor Bambi won't be safe now. No rangers protecting the picnic baskets. Yogi let's go. Oh my! Sorry I have to laugh at the craziness around us.
Danny Norton: They are shutting down parks because they want to put as much pain on the public as they can, because they're afraid that taxpayers will see there's a lot in the government that we don't need.

The Baker County Press Weather

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



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

Sun/Moon Chart This Week table with columns for Day, Sunrise, Sunset, and moon phases.

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

Weather History table for Oct. 10, 1972-73, detailing rainfall and temperature anomalies.

Advertisement for Sixth Street Steakhouse featuring a \$5.99 sub sandwich and a \$15.99 NY Strip Steak.

McDonald: family protests firing

From page 1 McDonald remains head coach of the weightlifting team. After Mrs. McDonald finished reading her letter, school board members assured her that they did not initiate the change in her son's employment status.

"Although we approve hiring and firing, that recommendation comes from the schools and the superintendent," board member Patricia Weeks said.

Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson said she was reluctant to discuss personnel matters during a public meeting, but told Mrs. McDonald that she could "hear the heart of the mother speaking" as she read her letter to the board.

"I understand; I really do," Mrs. Raulerson said, adding, however, that the decision to remove Scott McDonald from the football program was made by Principal Tom Hill and she had to support him as she does all her principals.

"I respect and admire them and I have to trust they're making the right decisions," Mrs. Raulerson said.

Mrs. Weeks then expressed her admiration for Scott McDonald personally and professionally as a coach and mentor.

"I have been so impressed with what he has done with our students. He loves students," Mrs. Weeks said. "We don't want him to go anywhere."

Board member Dwight Crews said Scott McDonald has been a friend of his for many years, but that relationship is immaterial to the present situation. He also noted that he had "no idea what transpired that brought this about."

"In personnel items, our hands are tied," Mr. Crews said. "We do not have the authority to hire or fire people, and we shouldn't have that authority."

However, the board may review personnel decisions if an appeal is filed, he said. Family members indicated that such an appeal was likely.

Board member Artie Burnett told Mr. McDonald's family members in the audience that he would "do the same thing for my son."

he became concerned when he heard about Coach Sulkowski's misuse of a credit card and subsequent revelations in The Baker County Press about his and three other coaches' attempts to cover up the incident.

Mr. Yarborough questioned "at what point does a crisis of integrity" have to get so bad that the school board will seek answers on its own, acknowledging that he did not know if the allegations in The Press article were true.

During an exchange with the superintendent, whom he referred to as "Sister Sherrie" and she referred to him as "Brother Mike," the moment became a bit contentious after he said he had spoken with the superintendent about the matter.

"You have not spoken to me," Mrs. Raulerson said. "You sent me two e-mails and I said I would be happy to meet with you, but to say that we have spoken is not accurate."

She went on to explain that she had "fervently prayed" and sought God's will before she decided to punish Coach Sulkowski with a 10-day suspension without pay for his and the three other coaches' "error in judgment."

"That is done," she said. "That is finished. I made the decision and I still stand by it as the right thing. I'm a Christian as well, and I have counseled with the Lord too. I showed mercy and grace with a measure of punishment."

As for Scott McDonald's resignation, Mrs. Raulerson reiterated that she supported Mr. Hill's decision but did not give a reason for the job change.

Mr. Hill, reached by telephone later at his office, said he wasn't at liberty to divulge the reason for his decision.

relieving Mr. McDonald from his football coaching duties because "it's a matter involving multiple employees and it's something I can't expound on."

When asked it would be safe to assume that the head coach, Ryan Sulkowski, had something to do with the change, Mr. Hill said that would be a reasonable assumption. But he wouldn't affirm or deny it.

Still, it had nothing to do with wanting to bring someone else in to replace Mr. McDonald as a football coach, Mr. Hill said.

Mining mediation...

From page 1 ers, including the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which supported the mining plans for their potential economic impact. They made presentations to local groups like the Woman's Club and others. They bought advertising and sponsored local events like a cleanup at the Little St. Mary's Park.

But, given their interest in the larger company's project and two pending permit applications with state and regional environmental agencies, E.R. Jahna appears to be moving forward with its mining plans.

As presented to regulators, the plan includes mining a 960-acre property owned by TerraPointe, LLC, a subsidiary of Rayonier, located northeast of the Walmart Distribution Center and north of the residential area off Allen Acres Road.

Residents there were among those opposed to the project, fearing nuisance truck traffic and drops in well water levels due to the mine's need for the water on which a hydraulic dredge would float.

E.R. Jahna has requested permission from the St. Johns River Water Management District to withdraw 3.9 billion gallons from the aquifer during the first five years of the project, and then just over a billion gallons during the next 15 years, the firm's application from August 2012 shows.

An application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Mining and Minerals Regulation for an additional permit is also pending at this time. It was filed in January of this year.

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USFS shuts down Ocean Pond

The road into west Baker County's popular Ocean Pond recreation area was blocked early this week by the US Forest Service, part of a nationwide shutdown of federally managed parks as "non-essential" for the duration of the budget stalemate between Congress and President Obama.

Dismisses appraiser suit Judge says deadline was missed

A circuit judge on October 8 dismissed a lawsuit by a Georgia-based landowner against Baker County Property Appraiser Tim Sweat alleging he was unfairly denied agriculture exemption on five parcels of timber property in tax years 2010 and 2011.

The order by Judge Phyllis Rosier less than two weeks after a hearing on a dismissal motion filed by Mr. Sweat's Tallahassee-based attorney, who serves as general counsel for the association of all of Florida's property appraisers.

The judge ruled that plaintiff Olin Wooten had no basis for relief because he did not file appeals by the 60-day deadline in each of the two years in question. Mr. Wooten claimed he never received the "green cards" sent out to landowners each year that must be returned to receive substantial tax breaks on land used for agriculture purposes.

Mr. Sweat contended the cards were mailed initially to owners of record, and the judge pointed out in her ruling that the property during the disputed time was not owned by Mr. Wooten but by either Baker-AW, LLC or an Alabama bank that foreclosed on it.

In both cases, however, Mr. Wooten did not pay the disputed property taxes by the deadline, another statutory requirement that Judge Rosier pointed out has been affirmed by higher courts.

As part of the dismissal order, the judge also ruled she has no jurisdiction over three alleged violations of Mr. Wooten's constitutional rights of equal protection, privileges and immunity and conspiracy to deny those rights.

They are matters for federal courts. In the lawsuit filed a year ago last week, Mr. Wooten claimed without specificity that Mr. Sweat's office failed unnamed "local" landholders the exemption without benefit of the green cards. Judge Rosier ruled during the hearing September 26 the plaintiff was not allowed access to filled-out forms under Florida's public records law.

The plaintiff sought to examine them to uncover proof of his allegation that the appraiser showed favoritism in granting the tax relief. As a result of the denial, Mr. Wooten's property taxes on the 1000-plus acres rose fourfold for those two years. The property currently has ag status.

"I'm thankful it's hopefully over and grateful that the judge ruled in our favor. We felt we did what the law told us to do," said Mr. Sweat on October 8, the date the dismissal was granted. Judge Rosier's ruling quoted extensively from case law affirming that challenges to ad valorem assessments in Florida must take the form of the avenues clearly defined in Florida Statutes, including the 60-day appeal deadline.

"...the Court finds that Plaintiff is, indeed, attempting to circumvent the jurisdictional non-claim period enumerated [in state statute]," wrote the judge. Mr. Wooten did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Commissioners: 'no' to raise small role in Mr. Crews' defeat. Gordon Crews, who is not related to Michael Crews, said he has never considered taking a raise when employees went without a pay hike.

"I haven't given it much thought," he said last week. "The first year or two I just wrote a check to the county to cover it. Since then, I just tell Kathy (Williams) I'm not going to take it."

The following are salaries approved for commissioners in other Northeast Florida counties in 2013-14: Alachua, \$73,028; Bradford, \$30,962; Clay, \$68,535; Columbia, \$42,725; Duval, \$92,757; and Union, \$27,227.

County Commissioner Adam Giddens followed suit and said he would notify the human resources department that evening. Commissioners Mark Hartley, current chairman of the board, and Gordon Crews did not comment on the salary issue during the meeting last month. But they both acknowledged prior to a commission meeting on October 1 that they would continue to reject their salary increases as they have done for the past several years until employees get a raise.

Mr. Hartley pointed out, however, that employees did, in effect, receive a pay increase because the county was picking up a greater share of the cost for employee health insurance in 2013-14. Though their salaries will stay the same, the savings to them in insurance costs will put extra money in their pockets, he reasoned.

Although the state sets salary levels for local officials, the money to pay them comes out of the county budget. In past years, if a commissioner wanted to reject a salary increase he or she had to write a personal check to the county to cover the increased amount.

That changed about three years ago when the Florida Legislature passed a law allowing local officials to simply turn the money down, which may be a politically wise thing to do especially in an election year.

Former County Commissioner Michael Crews was the only member of the board to accept a \$373 raise in 2011, bumping his salary from \$29,440 to \$29,813. At the time, he said he had earned the money and "worked hard for

Arrest over a parking spot

The longtime owner of a Macclenny meat market was arrested the evening of October 2 for allegedly threatening another man with a knife during an argument over parking on Lauramore Rd. near the county fair.

Richard Crews, 69, was jailed for felony aggravated assault following the incident shortly after 6 pm near his residence. Victim Robert Davis III, 34, of Glen St. Mary said Mr. Crews produced a pocket knife and also threatened to retrieve a shotgun.

Mr. Davis told Deputy Randy Davis he was approached by Mr. Crews shortly after he parked his vehicle on property belonging to his wife's grandmother. The accused challenged him and became irate before brandishing the knife after Mr. Davis explained he parked there in previous years.

Mr. Davis' wife, other relatives and a witness across the road backed his version of events. Mr. Crews admitting retrieving the knife from his pocket because he felt threatened. He denied making the verbal threats.

In other recent incidents, Eugenia Godwin, 32, was arrested for domestic battery on longtime boyfriend Timothy Gross, 41, at their residence on North Lowder in Macclenny the evening of October 6.

Deputy Michael Clark said he observed a cut and bruising near the boyfriend's left eye and was told the couple argued over Mr. Gross leaving the residence earlier with Ms. Godwin's brother and a female.

A criminal complaint for battery was filed on October 2 naming Christina Reneau, 34, for striking Charly Bain, 24, in the face during an argument in the office of All-Safe Storage on South Lowder St. Ms. Bain, who told Deputy Thomas Dyal she is pregnant, said she went to the office inquiring about retrieving property from a storage unit, and Ms. Reneau became irate before hitting her with a closed fist.

The accused denied that, insisting that Ms. Bain and Joshua Shanahan, 26, entered her office yelling at her and she struck her in self-defense after telling them to leave. All are from Macclenny.

County deputies filed complaints for battery against patients at Northeast Florida State Hospital for striking fellow patients in four incidents over a two-day period last week. All parties were male and three of the cases occurred on October 4.

One of them late that afternoon resulted in a victim requiring sutures to close a head wound received when he was struck repeatedly with the arm of a chair.

Steals, uses card at Walmart

Someone stole a bank card from the purse of an 83-year-old Macclenny woman while she was shopping at Walmart the afternoon of October 4 and promptly used it to make two purchases worth \$1036.

The victim called police after she was informed later that day of the fraudulent charges using her Country Federal Credit Union card. She told Deputy Jeremiah Johnson her Social Security card was also taken.

She left her purse in a cart briefly, and when she returned the wallet was lying outside the purse as if it had been rifled through. In a second case, a 63-year-old Macclenny man notified Vystar Credit Union on September 30 when he learned his bank card was used at Sears four days earlier to charge \$158 worth of merchandise.

Justin Pearce, 29, of Macclenny was named in a criminal complaint on October 3 for shoplifting a \$10 knife from Extreme

Outdoors on US 90 in the core city. A clerk told Deputy Thomas Dyal the suspect was acting suspiciously around 3 pm, and he checked a surveillance video that showed Mr. Pearce taking the knife from a shelf and placing it in a pocket before exiting.

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Advertisement for Cypress Landing featuring a 25% OFF discount on paints and stains, and 15% OFF on painting supplies.

Advertisement for Hugh D. Fish, Jr. J.D., a real estate, family law, and personal injury attorney.

Advertisement for Woodlawn Kennels offering grooming and boarding services.

Advertisement for Droptine Taxidermy featuring taxidermy services and a 'New Generation of Taxidermy' slogan.

Advertisement for Erectile Dysfunction drugs, claiming they may be dangerous to health.

DUI arrest in south city Driver swerving; stops on sidewalk

A Macclenny man observed driving erratically in the west city the evening of October 1 was charged with DUI and several other minor traffic offenses.

Patrick Stoutamire, 44, was at the wheel of a 2000 Ford SUV that made a wide turn leaving a residence on 9th St. about 9:30, then headed east in the westbound lane of South Boulevard before stopping on a sidewalk, according to Deputy Daryl Mobley.

Mr. Stoutamire failed several field sobriety tests and refused after a mandatory waiting period to submit to a breath test, which triggers an automatic DUI charge.

He was also ticketed for failure to have his driver's license, no proof of insurance or current registration and driving without a seat belt.

In other recent arrests, Debbie Donovan, 25, of Sanderson was charged with resisting without violence for unruly behavior at the scene of her boyfriend's arrest at an east Macclenny garage the afternoon of October 4.

Deputy Trey McCullough said he went to Williams Auto Repair on US 90 about 2:45 seeking Timothy Williams Jr., 26, who was wanted on a warrant for resisting arrest and violation of probation.

The officer said Ms. Donovan and the suspect's mother, Laura Williams, both insisted that Mr. Williams was not there. Moments later, the suspect

was arrested leaving a travel trailer on the property where he was staying.

Deputy McCullough said Ms. Donovan cursed and refused to calm herself while Mr. Williams was being taken into custody, and she also was taken to jail.

In a repeat of her arrest on August 13, a Jacksonville woman was charged with resisting and trespassing on the grounds at Northeast Florida State Hospital the afternoon of October 1.

Deputy Robert Simpkins was called to the hospital on SR 121 South by security when Guidadem Tekam, 46, caused a disturbance and refused to leave. As before, she claims her daughter has been held at the state hospital eight years against her will. The officer issued a trespass order at the scene, and said Ms. Tekam promptly violated it by returning to the grounds.

In another case involving a trespass order, Cynthia Pearce, 49, of Macclenny was arrested after Deputy Koty Crews arrived at a residence on Glenn Williamson Rd. the afternoon of October 6 and found her arguing with her sister Sheila Griffis.

Abby Vonk, 23, of Macclenny was taken back into custody in a bond surrender at county jail the morning of October 4. She has a felony count pending for fraudulent credit card use.

Obscenity keyed into vehicle at fairgrounds

A Macclenny woman reported to police that her vehicle was damaged while parked in a lot near the Baker County Fair the evening of October 4.

Shannon Johnson said she noticed on October 6 that an obscenity was scratched into the paint surface on the passenger door of her 2003 Lexus. The victim also mentioned to Deputy Michael Clark that other parked vehicles were damaged that night, but the sheriff's department confirmed early this week no additional reports were logged.

In another case of damage to a vehicle, Evangeline Frazer said on October 2 that her 2008 Mazda sustained \$500 damage to a rear hatch door, possibly from a bullet or pellet, while parked outside her residence on Grant St. southwest of Macclenny.

Ms. Frazer reported the damage the following day and stated to Deputy John Minkel she and her boyfriend heard what sounded like a gunshot the previous evening, and a projectile struck her residence after it hit the vehicle.

She gave the officer the name of a possible suspect.

A north Macclenny resident called police when she learned a .22 caliber rifle stored in the garage of her residence on Huckleberry Trail was apparently stolen.

Tishica Carlton told Deputy Brandon Kiser the rifle belonged to a 13-year-old neighbor and was last seen on September 28, six days before it was missing from a shelf.

16 suspensions for speeding biker

A Macclenny motorcyclist stopped by a county deputy for speeding on US 90 downtown the evening of October 5 was driving on a license with 16 prior suspensions.

Gregory Johnson, 41, also did not have a license endorsement for motorcycles.

Deputy Daryl Mobley said he both heard and saw the 2003 Suzuki driven by Mr. Johnson accelerate to a high rate of speed in the 30 mph zone just before 8 pm.

He was booked at county jail for a felony license violation and careless driving, and was one of five motorists arrested the past week on similar offenses.

William Johns II, 31, of Glen St. Mary fled at high speed from Deputy Robert Simpkins in the late morning of October 5 on Smokery Rd. near US 90 when the officer spotted him at the wheel of a 1998 Jeep and was aware he did not have a valid license.

The deputy said he lost sight of the Jeep as Mr. Johns fled west of Reid Stafford and the vehicle was located partially hidden in brush off a driveway a short time later. Officers located Mr. Johns at a nearby residence occupied by his estranged wife Amy, 29, who had an active protective order against him.

He was booked for driving with five prior suspensions and violating the court order.

Later that day, Deputy Mobley arrested Gregory Green, 42, of Olustee for driving with three suspensions.

The officer said Mr. Green ran a stop sign on MLK at South Boulevard while at the wheel of a 2006 Nissan about 10:20 pm.

The same deputy said he was aware that William Gainey, 41, of Jacksonville lacked a valid license when he drove off in a 2012 Chevrolet from Mac's Liquors in Macclenny about 2:20 the morning of October 2.

Mr. Gainey's license had been suspended four times, and he was also charged with a seat belt violation.

Deputy Shawn Bishara stopped a 1999 Ford on CR 125 north late on October 2 initially believing it was stolen, and arrested driver Robert Dean, 28, of Sanderson for having two license suspensions.

The driver was also ticketed for having the wrong license plate on the vehicle.



Photo by Joe Adamson

Heart doctors join Dr. Tecson's office

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Dr. Angelito Tecson's Macclenny office on South 6th Street the afternoon of October 3. Doctors from the Jacksonville-based practice began seeing patients every other Thursday in June and are now doing so once weekly. First Coast Cardiovascular Institute delivers full cardiovascular diagnostic services at the location. The practice also has offices in Clay, St. Johns and Putnam counties. Heart disease is the leading killer in Baker County, a statistic that helped draw First Coast Cardiovascular Institute to the area. "We felt we needed to be here. We're very focused on prevention [of heart disease]," said the practice's co-founder and president Dr. Yazan Khatib. The practice began in 2002 with two doctors and now boasts 15 doctors and six nurse practitioners. Pictured from the ceremony (from left) are Gabrielle Lynch, outreach coordinator, Dr. Vaqar Ali, Dr. Tecson, Dr. Khatib, Ashraf Shaikh, Dr. Tecson's wife Ellen and Tammy Nichols.

NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE

Board ups dividends Baker County will get \$330,000

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Business has been so good at the New River regional landfill that the three counties that own it — Baker, Bradford and Union — will get an even bigger dividend check in 2013-14 than in previous years.

An extra \$100,000 for each county was approved by the New River Solid Waste Association's board of governors during a special meeting on October 3. The windfall, which will be added to tight budgets that went into effect two days earlier, will be included in the new fiscal year's "host fees" paid to the counties.

The board had previously voted to allocate \$790,000 in host fees this year, with Union County getting the lion's share — \$330,000 — because the landfill is located there. Baker and Bradford were awarded \$230,000 each.

The original fees were included in a new \$7,012,120 budget approved in June, including revenues totaling \$5.2 million in tipping fees from the largest refuse-producing customer, Alachua County. At that time, Executive Director Darrell O'Neal said New River was "in great shape, financially."

Union County Commissioner Wayne Smith, who serves on the New River board, pushed for an additional \$100,000 at the June meeting but was urged to wait until after a new contract was negotiated with Alachua County.

He finally won during last week's meeting after four other members agreed the landfill could afford the extra measure of generosity. The counties have been paid a total of \$8,604,474 in dividends since the payouts began in 1999, with \$3.8 million going to Union and \$2.4 million each to Baker and Bradford.

The extra \$300,000 this year will come from a \$4.9 million fund set aside for future cell construction.

The main reason for the special board meeting last week was to interview three applicants for the position of New River legal counsel. However, two failed to appear for the meeting due to an emergency and a scheduling conflict, and the third applicant, Russell E. Wade, got the job. Most board members said that Mr. Wade, who presently serves as the Union County attorney, was their preferred choice anyway.

Mr. Smith, who routinely sees Mr. Wade at Union County Commission meetings, noted that his application proposed a \$200 hourly fee and asked if he would

consider less.

"Can you shave that a little bit?" Mr. Smith asked.

"What's a little bit?" Mr. Wade responded.

"\$180?" Mr. Smith suggested.

"Sold!" Mr. Wade replied, and the board suddenly had a new attorney.

Afterward, the board received a briefing on the status of a proposed landfill gas-to-energy deal with Landfill Energy Systems Inc., which could be worth millions of dollars in revenue to New River over the next 15 years or so. Officials said they have received additional financial documents that they requested from

plant at New River, similar to a plant the company operates at Trail Ridge Landfill, to process landfill gas and use it to generate electricity for sale to the Jacksonville Electric Authority, crossing over lines owned by Clay Electric Cooperative and Florida Power & Light Co.

Despite the slowdown, officials predicted a workable deal with LES would be forthcoming in the near future.

"It's frustrating for us and them," said Perry Kent, New River's assistant director. "We're close. We're just not there yet. I think we're going to get it hammered out."

Before he expressed his optimistic outlook, though, Mr. Kent described the information LES had provided thus far as "smoke and mirrors."

"I think they're just slowing it (the project) down trying to make us take what they want to give us," he said.

Board members said they don't intend to rush into anything until every aspect of the proposed agreement has been thoroughly examined.

Darrell O'Neal, executive director, told the board that LES has recently entered into a similar agreement with Sarasota County, agreeing to pay 8 percent on the gross revenue, which he said is "a much better deal than what they're offering us."

The regular monthly meeting scheduled for October 10 was cancelled. However, board members said they would be willing to meet again in a special session if a proposed contract with LES should materialize before the next monthly meeting on November 13.

Landfill officials are reluctant to enter into such a deal because of concerns that they would not be able to sufficiently monitor the company's profits. Additional data related to projected costs must be obtained, but so far the information has not been provided.

The original proposal called for LES to build a \$5 million

Couple chased on foot after running from former garage

Police arrested a west Glen St. Mary couple late on October 3 after they were seen running from a former motorcycle shop at US 90 and CR 139B.

Deputy Clements Leo said he was on routine patrol about 10:20 pm when he spotted Emily Barton, 20, and Michael Waters Jr., 25, exit Hawg Riders through a roll-up door. The suspects fled north on foot into a wooded area and Ms. Waters was caught by Cpl. Randy Davis shortly after.

Several deputies fanned out in the neighborhood and the county's K-9 Blitz was unable to pick up a scent. Sgt. Shawn Bishara received information that Mr. Waters was attempting to enter his residence on 139-B through a window.

Deputy Leo went to the residence and observed Mr. Waters at the window and again in the rear of residence when he at-

tempted to flee again on foot. He was taken into custody after running back inside.

Ms. Barton, who earlier was released to her boyfriend's parents facing a criminal complaint for trespass, then returned to the address and refused to calm herself while Mr. Waters was taken into custody.

Both were booked at county jail for trespass and resisting police without violence.

Shop owner Dennis Schmitz said nothing appeared to be missing.

In an unrelated arrest, Christopher Legg, 21, of Macclenny was charged with criminal mischief for spray painting a picnic shelter at the city's park off 8th St.

Deputy Koty Crews said he was on routine patrol at mid-afternoon on October 4 when he received a tip that a group of people were on park grounds and

appeared to be vandalizing property.

He arrested Mr. Legg, who had paint smears on his fingers, for criminal mischief. He also confiscated three spent spray paint cans that matched colors on the defaced property. Deputy Crews described the markings as "gang related" with symbols and names.

Four others with Mr. Legg at the time were not charged.

Suspects described as a white man and woman are believed responsible for the theft of \$180 cash from a drink machine on the second tier of the Travel Lodge motel in south Macclenny the evening of September 29.

Owner Jayesh Patel told Deputy Michael Clark a surveillance video caught the two in the area of the machine about 9 pm, and they drove off in what appeared to be a dark Pontiac.

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Upcoming events at the
Baker County Family
YMCA

Contact the Baker County Family YMCA for more information or to register for these upcoming programs!

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Registration begins Oct. 14
Financial assistance available

Next is Spring Soccer!
Weight Loss Support & Mgmt. Group meets at the Baker County Health Dept. the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 pm. Free to everyone!

www.FirstCoastYMCA.org
259.0898
98 W. Lowder St., Macclenny
Membership not required to participate

\$150 in prizes offered in holiday writing contests

Sharpen your pencils and dust off your keyboards because *The Baker County Press* is sponsoring three holiday-themed writing contests this fall with \$150 in prize money — \$50 for each contest — up for grabs.

We'll be publishing in the newspaper the top two or three entries in each age division and first place entries will receive the \$50 prize.

The age divisions will be as follows: 13 and under, 14-18 and 19 and over. Details on three respective contests:

Thanksgiving essay contest: Essays of no more than 1000 words answering the question, "What are you thankful for this year?" must be received by November 15 and include the author's name, age and contact phone number.

Christmas short story contest: Christmas-themed short stories of no more than 2000 words must be received by December 13 and include the author's name, age and contact phone number.

All entries will be judged by the newspaper's staff for creativity, completeness and entertainment value as well as grammar, spelling, punctuation and the like. Entries may be emailed to reporter@bakercountypress.com, by mail to P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063, or hand delivered to our office at 104 S. 5th St. Mon-Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

One day only sign-up for toys

The Macclenny Fire Department has reserved Saturday, November 9 as the sole day on which applications for this year's Christmas 4 Kids will be accepted.

Sign up at the fire station next to the Baker County Health Department between 8 am-4 pm. Bring a valid ID with a current address, a copy of the child's current report card or, if the child is not of school age, a copy of his or her birth certificate.

Parents and guardians who received toys in 2011 or 2012 are not eligible to get them this year.

Recipes
We want your
a holiday special section in November
and is reprinting favorite holiday recipes.
Deadline is Friday, October 18.
Submit it to the office or to bcpres@necocom.net

Northeast Florida Telephone Company's Statement of Rates for Basic Telephone Service

Northeast Florida Telephone Company is a quality telecommunications company that provides Basic and Enhanced services at reasonable rates within its service territory. Pursuant to regulatory requirements Northeast Florida Telephone Company offers its customers the following supported services:

Voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; Local usage; Access to emergency services such as 911; Toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers.

	Residential	Business
Individual Touch-Calling Access Line Base Rate Area	\$ 14.00	1-Party \$ 24.40 Trunk \$ 36.00
FCC Subscriber Line Charge	\$ 6.50	Single Line \$ 6.50 Multi-Line \$ 9.20
Access Recovery Charge (ARC)	\$ 1.00	Single Line \$ 1.00 Multi-Line \$ 2.00

Lifeline Service
Lifeline service is a government assistance program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). Only one Lifeline benefit is available per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household is not permitted to receive lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Lifeline rules and will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the subscriber may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person. Willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program.

Who qualifies for reduced Telephone Charges?
To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly listed as Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIEHAP)
- National School Lunch Program (free lunch program only)
- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- Additional eligibility criteria may apply to residents of federally recognized tribal lands.

In most cases, consumers will have to provide proof of eligibility upon application for Lifeline service. In addition, consumers must complete a Lifeline application and make certain certifications upon signing up for Lifeline and agree to re-certify their continued eligibility on an annual basis.

Should you have any questions, please contact a NEFCOM representative at (904) 259-2261 or 1-877-838-5695.

Pot arrests after traffic stops

County deputies made three arrests the past week for misdemeanor marijuana possession following traffic stops.

Deputy Daryl Mobley said he stopped a 1996 Honda driven by James Ruise, 42, of Sanderson the evening of October 4 after observing it southbound on MLK Dr. in Macclenny in the middle of the road.

The officer said he detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle's interior, and Mr. Ruise produced a small baggie of pot from a front seat console.

A computer check revealed that passenger Frederick Williams, 46, of Glen St. Mary was wanted in Union County for failure to appear in court for driving on a suspended license. He was also taken to county jail.

Mr. Ruise was ticketed for driving on an expired learner's permit.

Dalton Conger, 19, of Sanderson was arrested for the drug offense and reckless driving after Deputy Koty Crews saw his 1996 Toyota swerving and several times cross the center line of CR 23N in traffic about midday on October 6.

The officer found the marijuana in a cigarette pack con-

cealed in Mr. Conger's jeans. He was also ticketed for having the wrong license plate on the vehicle, an offense for which he had earlier been cited.

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Thank You!

The members and advisors of the FFA and 4H of Baker County would like to send a *HEARTFELT THANKS* to all of the businesses and individuals who paid over \$93,000 for our market animals at the 2013 Baker County Fair

- Buyers of Animals**
- Bennett's Feed and Pet Supply
 - Owen and Associates Insurance
 - L.D. Bradley Land Surveyors
 - Country Federal Credit Union
 - Baker County Farm Bureau
 - Bennett and Kennedy Cattle Co.
 - Hillandale Quality Feed
 - American Enterprise Bank
 - Lyons and Lyons CPA
 - Publix Supermarkets
 - North Fl. Livestock Market
 - Landwood Development
 - Osceola Land and Title Co.
 - Wal-Mart Distribution
 - Ben Fish Memorial
 - Winn-Dixie Supermarkets
 - Harrington Insurance
 - Nettles Sausage Company
 - W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors
 - Jacksonville Wealth Management
 - The Ice Man — David Bryant
 - Williams and Rowe Contracting
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 - Diamond Timber
 - Topical Rx Pharmacy
 - Ray's Metal Works
 - Vystar Credit Union
 - Long Branch Farms
 - Legacy Engineering
 - Callahan Timber
 - Sinker Treasures
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 - Hickman Site Prep
 - Bobcat of Jacksonville
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- Cash Supporters**
- Dupont Inc.
 - Old Castle Southern Group
 - Okefenokee Rural Electric
 - Farm Credit Of Florida
 - Wainright Custom Meats
 - First Federal Bank
 - Pit Stop Portable Restrooms
 - Geiger Crane Service
 - FSI Mortgage
 - The Baker County Press
 - Ferreira Funeral Services
 - Southern Fuel/ Pit Stop of Glen
 - Superintendent of Schools Sherrie Raulerson
 - Judge Joey Williams
 - Sheriff Joey Dobson
 - Clark of Court Al Fraser
 - Property Appraiser Tim Sweat
 - Tax Collector Gene Harvey
 - Supv. of Elections Nita Crawford
 - Bed, Bath and Barks Pet Services
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Battling weight woes State's top doc brings message here

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Florida Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong visited Baker County last week to speak about the state's healthy weight initiative at the health department.

He was joined by more than a dozen local health officials as well as County Commissioner Jimmy Anderson and others for lunch on October 4.

Dr. Armstrong said the state has avoided using terms like "obese" or "overweight" in its messaging about the initiative, dubbed Healthiest Weight, because of their negative connotation.

Encouraging the public at large to take small steps to change their habits and achieve their healthiest weight may be more successful than targeting specific groups with such language, he said.

Dr. Armstrong has been visiting county health departments and other venues across the state to deliver the healthy weight message since the campaign launched last January.

Here in Baker County, about 29.4 percent of the population is overweight and about 36 percent is obese, according to Florida Department of Health data for 2010. The latter statistic puts the county amongst the bottom quarter in Florida.

Statewide, 37.8 percent of people are overweight and 27.2 percent obese.

Dr. Armstrong said the goal of his visit was to energize the community to begin thinking about solutions to the state's "weight challenge," which is not only a health issue but a financial one.

The state estimates that the cost for chronic diseases linked to being overweight or obese, including diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure, will cost some \$13 billion through 2030 if current trends persist.

Roughly two-thirds of Floridians are overweight or obese, some 60 percent of babies born in the state are obese or over-



Florida Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong speaks at the health department last week. Also pictured is the department's director Kerry Dunlavey.

weight by the time they graduate high school and the state's obesity rate has tripled in the last three decades, Dr. Armstrong said.

Florida ranks 12th behind Colorado in terms of having the largest population at a healthy weight. That's better than last year's ranking at 19th. "We want to beat Colorado," he said.

Part of the problem, according to the secretary, is that the built environment that's emerged across most of Florida in recent decades makes the unhealthy choice the easiest choice.

"We have to reverse that," said Dr. Armstrong. "We have to get beyond just saying eat less and exercise more."

The secretary stressed that as Florida has grown and developed, it's done so without regard to building an environment that promotes achieving a healthy weight.

He hopes spreading the healthy weight message will help local officials think deeper about how their communities develop in the coming years and how

Benefits for Ms. Gerard

Several benefit plans and fund raising sites arose during the week following an I-10 accident that critically injured BCHS English and drama teacher Sara Beth Gerard on October 1.

She remains in the intensive care unit at UF Florida Health in Jacksonville early this week and, according to her father Bob Gerard, she is making slow but encouraging progress.

The events:
• A character costume walk at the BCHS track on October 19 starting with sign-in at 9 a.m. The walk starts at 11, and there is a costume contest. Register online at thecharacterwalkforsarabeth.eventbrite.com

• Photographer Kelly Register is offering mini-photo sessions with proceeds going to Ms. Gerard on November 16.

• A website gofundme.com/sweetsarabeth has been established by a drama cast in Jacksonville.

An account was established for donations at American Enterprise Bank in Macclenny.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Former broadcaster keynotes Chamber's awards banquet

Motivational speaker Greg Gaines (above) delivered the keynote address at the annual Chamber of Commerce awards banquet the evening of October 1.

He spoke about the importance of inspiration to leadership. "Leadership is useless without motivation," he told the group. "Pulling works much better than pushing." The 51-year-old husband and father of three is a former radio and television broadcaster in the Jacksonville area.

Following his speech, Chamber director Darryl Register presented the awards. Michael Qualls, manager at Tractor Supply, and Jeremy Cain, owner of Firehouse Subs, accepted business appreciation awards while Cathy Rhoden accepted the community service award for her volunteer efforts with the Baker County Fair.



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Win Gator tickets

The Baker County Chamber of Commerce is raffling off two tickets to the Gator homecoming game against Vanderbilt on November 9.

The tickets were donated by First Federal Bank and are in the north end zone.

Stop by the chamber office at 20 E. Macclenny Ave. downtown to purchase a chance at \$20. Proceeds go to chamber events.

Check it out...
bakercountypress.com

Senior Expo

at Heritage Park
Tuesday, October 29 | 9-1

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Great Music ~ Food ~ Fun
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Call for information- 259-2223 ext. 231 or 233

County says farewell to Box Hathcox Union pact put on hold

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

A recent agreement calling for Baker County to provide building inspections and construction plan reviews in Union County for \$20,000 a year has been delayed due to the resignation of the man who has run the building department for more than a decade.

Bob Hathcox, chief building official and code enforcement administrator in Baker County for 14 years, received a plaque commemorating "dedicated service" during a county commission meeting on October 1.

His last day on the job will be Friday, October 11, after which he will begin a new job in a similar position in Lake City, except he said he'll be inspecting quite a bit more commercial construction there than he has been in Baker County.

"That's one of the many hats they'll have me wearing," Mr. Hathcox said on October 7. "I'll be handling zoning, code enforcement, inspections ... basically the same things I'm doing here. They're doing some consolidating and innovative things in that (Lake City) department."

About eight years after he retired from the Marine Corps in 1991, Mr. Hathcox became Baker County's first full-time, professional building department official.

"I am the (county's) first licensed and certified building code administrator with a standard certificate," he said. "That means I passed all the tests to get a standard license. I can go anywhere in the state of Florida and do this job."

Mr. Hathcox submitted his resignation shortly after county commissioners approved a recommendation by County Manager C.J. Thompson on September 17 to share building department resources with Union County, which requested the assistance. County commissioners said they saw it as an opportunity to help a neighboring county and add \$20,000 to a tight budget in the process.

Under the terms of the one-year agreement, the building department would conduct inspections and review building plans in Union County on an as-needed basis on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Union County was to furnish a vehicle.

Now, both counties are in need of a building official.

Although the agreement would have placed additional workload demands on Mr. Hathcox, who is the only person in the building department qualified to do both commercial and residential inspections, he said it had "absolutely nothing" to do with his decision to take a new job in



Mr. Hathcox (third from left) at farewell reception October 4 with present and past commissioners and former co-workers Bobbi Thrift of the building department, Commissioner Jimmy Anderson, former County Manager Josie Davis Jr., former commissioners Alex Robinson and Fred Raulerson, and inspector Bobby Griffin of the building department.

"We may contract it (the position) out, like the City of Macclenny," Mr. Thompson said. Or, he said, he may be able to "work out a tri-county deal with Union and Bradford counties."

"That could be our new model until it no longer meets our needs in Baker County," he said. "Financially, contracting will be cheaper."

Commissioners were impressed. "I'm for trying to do it interlocal," Commissioner Jimmy Anderson said. Commissioner James Croft agreed, saying the proposal could be a "good way to streamline the operation and get more bang for the buck."

Mr. Hathcox repeated the same thing he told commissioners when he received his plaque last week: "It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of Baker County and the county commission. We've come a long way in 14 years. There's a lot of good people in Baker County."

Meanwhile, the county faces the task of finding a fully licensed replacement. "There's not a lot of them," Mr. Thompson told commissioners, adding that the other inspector in the department is only licensed to inspect residential construction.

The county manager said he has reached a tentative agreement with Claude Bagwell, who conducts building inspections and reviews construction plans for the City of Macclenny, to turn the building department for 90-120 days to give the county time to decide what to do about filling the position permanently.

Mr. Bagwell, a retired Jacksonville building official, has been serving under contract with Macclenny for a number of years.

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Please be advised
Macclenny's City Hall
will be closed on
Monday, October 14, 2013
in observance of
Columbus Day.
We will re-open for business on
Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 8:30 am.

BCHS out scores grieving Tiger team

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Baker County High School's varsity Hi-Q team defeated a grieving squad from Columbia County on October 1. The previous evening a two-truck collision in Lake City killed a fellow classmate and injured a handful of others.

"I've never felt bad about winning until now," said Baker High's coach Cathy Hooper. She said the opposing team seemed very distracted during the competition at Baker High.

The varsity Hi-Q group for

Baker County scored 255 points to Columbia County's 144. The junior varsity team had an even wider margin of victory, 475 to 44.

A number of the host player's parents cooked food for the season's opening match, which provided some comfort to the visiting team.

The Hi-Q team's next home match is October 15 against Bradford. They travel to take on Lake Butler on October 8. Mark Bryant, a city commissioner and teacher, serves as the team's assistant coach.

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We want your **Recipes**
The Baker County Press will be publishing a holiday special section in November and is reprinting favorite holiday recipes. Deadline is Friday, October 18. Submit it to the office or to bcpress@netcom.net

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PHOTOS BY JOEL ADOINGTON



'Doggie Extravaganza' raises \$205 for pound

Bed, Bath & Barks, a kennel and dog grooming business in Glen St. Mary, hosted a benefit dog show on October 5 to raise funds and donations for the Baker County Animal Control facility off Steel Bridge Road. The event collected \$205 and several food and towel donations for the department with nine dogs, big and small, participating in the contests, which included pageant/talent show and obstacle course. A 4-year-old Boston terrier named Harlo, shown below middle with owner Laurel Davis, had the fastest obstacle course time. Also pictured from the event (above from left) Debbie Fralley of Glen uses a treat to lead Keeper, a 6-year-old hound, through the course; Laney Arabie of Taylor showing Tess, 5, a pomeranian, her prize; (below from top) Lydia Pons, owner of Bed, Bath & Barks makes announcements to visitors; and siblings (back from left) Jalee, 8, Alexia, 10, (front from left) Bailee, 5, and Bradley, 6, Hardenbrook show off their painted faces. The event also featured a K-9 drill team and pet photography and lunch.



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Monday
5:00 pm
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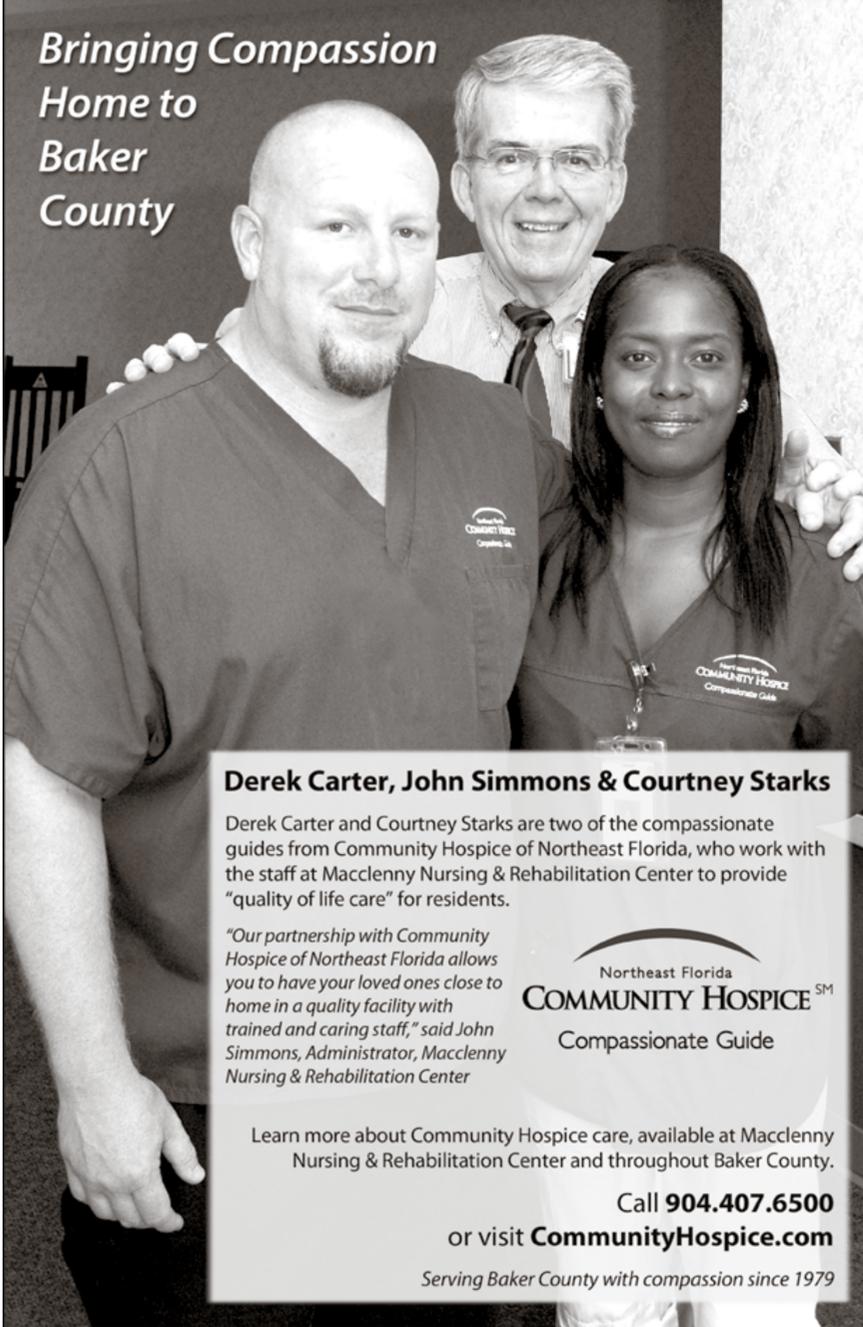
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OBITUARIES

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

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

John Howard, 64, of St. George dies

John W. Howard, 64, of St. George, GA died on Friday October 4, 2013. He was born February 27, 1949 to Miller and Jeanne Maderia Howard in Steubenville, Ohio.
Mr. Howard was an avid football fan who enjoyed the Georgia Bulldogs and also loved to ride motorcycles, especially with his good friend Mitch. He was proud of his large collection of model cars and greatly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.
John is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Betty Sue Howard of St. George; son Kevin (Donna) Howard of Callahan; daughters Jennifer (Stephen) Davis of Macclenny, Michelle Williams of Macclenny and Heather Mann of St. George; brothers Carl Howard of Homosassa, FL and Paul (Yellena) Howard of Winatuk, Alaska; sisters Leona (Ed) Mathos of Jennings, FL and Millie (Eddie) Trevino of Rockwall, TX; grandchildren Rachel Davis, Sarah Davis, Lucas Davis, Kyle Williams, Reed Williams, Hala Williams, Jace Harvey, Gage Mann, Emmy Howard and Addy Howard.
The family will host a celebration of life ceremony at 1 pm on Saturday, October 26 at 3168 Farley Burnsed Road, St. George. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Utmost gratitude

It is with broken hearts and humble spirits that we attempt to express our utmost gratitude after the passing of our baby Eli Kemp. The outpouring of love that this community has demonstrated is unfathomable. If it hadn't been for the prayers, the food, the flowers, cards, and condolences from so many family, friends, colleagues, teachers of our children and others that we may possibly fail to mention, it's inconceivable how our family could have made it from one minute...one hour...one day to the next.
Many special thanks to Tim and Donna Nunn for staying with Jennifer until family could get there, the first responders who went above and beyond to stay with and console the family, to Ed Fraser ER staff who gave utmost priority to our privacy and grief, to the Baker County Sheriff's Office who never left our sides and demonstrated love and respect for our hurt, to Bros. David and Timmy Thomas who beautifully officiated the services and prayed without ceasing, to Glen Baptist Church for providing food for before and after the services and to V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services for impeccably directing the memorial service. If we unintentionally failed to mention anyone, please accept our apologies.

Pete, Jennifer, Logan and Erianna Kemp
Wayne and Debbie West and family
Bob and Tseuneko Kemp and family
Steve and Barbara Porterfield and family

Arthur Thompson, 67, of St. George

Arthur Vincent Thompson Sr., 67, of St. George, GA died Thursday, September 26, 2013 at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center following a long illness. He was born in Yokohama, Japan and lived in Jacksonville and Delray Beach, FL before moving to St. George in 2003. He was an electrical engineer with the Siemens Corp. in Boca Raton for 24 years until his retirement in 2002.
Mr. Thompson was a graduate of Ribault High School's class of 1965 and attended Jacksonville University. He was a Catholic, a former Scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts of America, a member of the Moose Lodge in Macclenny and an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War.
He is survived by Jannett Thompson of St. George; sons Arthur V. Thompson Jr. of St. George and Mark Patrick Thompson of Delray Beach; brother, Raymond G. (Jo) Thompson of Palatka; several nieces and nephews.
A graveside memorial service was held at 3 pm on October 1 in the Chapel Hills Memory Gardens in Jacksonville. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.



Arthur Thompson

Memorial set for Rhodia Womack, 57

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 26 at 3 pm at Mount Zion Church in Macclenny to celebrate the life of Rhodia Diane Womack, 57, who died of cancer at the Acosta Rua Hospice Care Center in Jacksonville on July 15.
The service and interment of her ashes were delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.
Mrs. Womack was born on October 25, 1955 in Lake City to the late Thomas (T.J.) Barton and Annie Mae Barton of Macclenny. She enjoyed fishing, gardening, socializing with her many friends and spending time with her family. She was for many years in the food preparation and service business at several locales in the area.
She is survived by her mother; sisters Sue (Mark) Keiser of Lake City, Marlene (Harold) Strickland of Orange Park and Carolyn (Delbert) Barton-Combs of Macclenny; children Wendy (Kenneth) Miller and Jeffrey Reed; grandchildren Kane Wolfe, Blayne Wolfe and Haileigh Miller.



Rhodia Womack

Work day set

There will be a work day at South Prong Cemetery on Saturday, October 12 beginning at 8 am. Please bring tools.
Please call David Richardson at 259-0229 with questions.

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

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Sun. Evening Worship .. 6:00 pm
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Everyone welcome!

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Fellowship 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Worship Services 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm
Minister Sam F. Kitching

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church

CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons



PHOTO BY VALERIE HICKMAN

Baker Blast finish Jacksonville benefit tournament in second

The 13-and-under Baker Blast softball team made it to the championship game of the United States Specialty Sports Association's Play for the Cure tournament in Jacksonville last weekend, finishing as the runner up in their division to the Jax Fusion squad. Proceeds from the two-day tournament benefitted the Susan G. Komen Foundation and its mission to combat breast cancer. On the team from Baker County (pictured above) were (front row from left) McKenzie Hickman, Danae Miller, Leah Kerce, Kat Rhoden, Brie Miller, Kim Thrower, (back row from left) coach Larry Payne, Alle Crumme, Mackenzie Carter, Karli Johnson, Catlin Harvin, Camryn Payne, Marissa Rhoden and coach Robert Davis. "We played three games on Saturday (October 5) going 2-1 and went into single elimination on Sunday," said Mr. Davis. "We played the first two games back-to-back, winning both and putting us in the championship." He said each player contributed at some point in the tournament. The defensive player of the weekend was Ms. Crumme for her "outstanding pitching" and Ms. Hickman was named offensive player of the tournament with three doubles, three singles and several RBIs, the coach said.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm

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

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-6:00 Evening Worship
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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.

FOR SALE

Pro Form 785-SS spacesaver treadmill exercise machine with heart rate, pulse and all monitors \$275; Razor electric scooter, needs battery, like new condition \$50, OREX upright vacuum \$40; George Foreman kitchen grill \$20. 259-2271. 10/10p

Wheelchair - transport chair-lift chair; used only two months. Joanne Covington 259-2335. 10/10p

FINALLY! The historic Franklin Mercantile reopens for your business this Saturday October 12! Then operating Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Railroad track in Glen. 259-6040. Follow us on facebook! 10/10c

Brand new sofa \$50, washing machine \$150, electric stove \$150, 2 harvest tables \$400 for both, other items available. 904-653-1702. 10/10p

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MISCELLANEOUS

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1995 Buick Riviera. Good car. \$2500. 080. 912-943-2528. 9/26-10/17p

2002 Dodge Durango. Nice body and tires; 7 passenger; cold AC. Needs head gasket. \$1500 or trade. Call 904-571-0913. 10/10p

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ANIMALS

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Swimmers set records in three losses

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

Records are made to be broken.

That's a mantra the BCHS swim team has taken to heart as six school records were set during the team's meets at Suwannee and Clay.

Three record-breaking times were set when the Wildcats traveled to Suwannee on October 1. Kelsea Crain set the first record of the day en route to a first place finish in the girls' 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:05:37, beating her previous mark by less than four-tenths of a second.

Jonathan Mobley followed it up by setting the school record in the boys' 100-yard freestyle with a time of 59.07 to take second place in the event, finishing ahead of teammate Daughton Martin.

Finally, the girls' 200-yard freestyle relay team set a new mark of 2:05.69 in a first-place finish.

Even with all the record-setting times, the Wildcats still finished behind Suwannee by an overall score of 183-113. The boys were outscored 93-51, while the girls lost 90-62.

In addition to the new records, there were still impressive performances by the swimmers despite the overall outcome.

Andrea Clark and Bethany Richardson swept the top two spots in the girls' 200-yard freestyle as Richardson edged out the third-place swimmer by less than a second. Brandon Wheeler finished in third for the boys in the event.

Baker County's girls also swept the top spots in the girls' 200-yard individual medley (IM), with Ashton Ray and Ashley Jennings finishing in first and second, respectively. On the boys' side, Martin finished in second in the same event by less than eight-tenths of a second.

Crain continued in the winning lane in the girls' 50-yard freestyle by holding off the second-place swimmer by less than half a second to finish in first. The boys' 50-yard freestyle was al-

most as close; slightly more than a second separated the first and third place. Wheeler finished second in the event, while Matthew Morgan finished just behind him in third.

In the boys' 100-yard breaststroke, Mobley and Morgan took first and third place for the Wildcats. Ray finished the girls' 100-yard breaststroke in second place.

After finishing second in the IM, Jennings was able to win the girls' 100-yard butterfly. Mark Ray came in second for the boys in the event.

Mark Ray and Simon Brown finished in second and third in the boys' 100-yard backstroke, and Richardson came in third for the girls.

The Wildcats also had three relay teams take second place finishes. Baker County swimmers set more school records two days later during a swim meet at Clay, which also featured Middleburg.

Crain and Mobley both once again set new school marks in the team's second meet of the week. Crain set a school record of 1:16.49 in the girls' 100-yard backstroke to take second in the event. Mobley's time of 26.85 in the boys' 50-yard freestyle earned him a third-place finish.

The third school record was set by Ashton Ray in the girls' 200-yard freestyle with a time of

2:32.99. Much like the previous meet, the new records didn't translate to success in the overall scores. The Wildcats finished behind both Middleburg and Clay at the meet, as the Broncos outscored Baker County 140-118, while the Blue Devils cruised to a 223-73 win.

The boys' team outswam the Middleburg team by a score of 69-53, but fell to Clay 114-38. The girls lost to Middleburg 87-49, while falling to Clay 109-35.

The Wildcats still had swimmers finish in the top three in events that the team had participated in.

Jennings finished in second in the girls' 100-yard butterfly, and Mark Ray did the same for the boys in the event.

In the boys' 500-yard freestyle, Brown took second place by beating out the third place swimmer by .08-seconds. Ashton Ray finished in third place in the event for the girls.

Martin and Jennings both finished in third place in their respective races for the Wildcats in the 200-yard IM.

Crain finished slightly more than one second behind the first place swimmer and held off the third place finisher by less than four-tenths of a second in the girls' 50-yard freestyle.

Brown ended the boys' 100-yard backstroke in third place for Baker County. Mobley did the same in the boys' 100-yard breaststroke.



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Clockwise from left: Blayne Merchant leaps to deflect the pass, Joseph McCray fights off a tackler, and from the JV contest against Bishop Kenny at home is quarterback Owen Register.



Wildcats dominate Wolfson

JON SHUMAKE
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The BCHS Wildcat varsity football team shut out the hosting Wolfson Wolfpack (0-5, 0-3) 40-0 the evening of October 4 to improve its record to 4-2 overall and 2-1 against district opponents.

The game was almost a carbon copy of the previous week's beat down of Forrest. For the second straight week, the Wildcats put the game away early with a high-scoring opening quarter.

After quarterback Jacob Carter threw an opening drive interception, defensive back Anthony James picked off Wolfson's quarterback and returned it for a touchdown to give the squad a quick 7-0 lead.

The offense then got rolling and scored on each of its next two possessions. Carter scored on a short quarterback sneak to cap off a six-play drive. The offense would then take advantage of a fumble recovered by linebacker Hunter Chambers as wide receiver Mike Boone found pay dirt after making several Wolfson defenders miss tackles on a 15-yard catch-and-run.

Boone's touchdown gave the Wildcats a 21-0 lead at the end of the first quarter, but the offense would go quiet for the most part until the late stages of the

game. Carter's 20-yard field goal was Baker County's only score in the second and third quarters.

Luckily for the Wildcats, the defense was able to shut down Wolfson's offense, forcing three turnovers and a forced fumble. James would have added another interception in the second quarter but a questionable pass interference call negated the play, which would have given the offense the ball deep inside the home team's



Anthony James one his way to the end zone after snatching an interception.

territory. The turnovers were a result of consistent pressure from Baker County's defense, which penetrated into the backfield for most of the game. They dropped Wolfson's quarterback three times for sacks during the game.

The offense finally found its rhythm once again late in the game with a 16-point fourth quarter. Running back Dalton Dyal punched the ball in from one-yard out and then converted the two-point conversion to extend the lead to 32-0 with 7 minutes remaining in the game.

Boone caught his second touchdown of the night on a screen pass that he took 15-yards to the house, which

was followed by another successful two-point conversion by Dyal.

The score was set up by a deep pass from Carter to James that went for about 40-yards. Boone's touchdown was the final score of the night and gave the team the 40-0 win.

The victory improved the Wildcats to 2-1 in District 3-5A play. They sit behind Yulee and Bishop Kenny, both 3-0 in the district, and have the same record as Ribault, which lost to Bishop Kenny 42-29.

Ribault still holds the tiebreaker over the Wildcats after the Trojans won 17-9 at Memorial Stadium September 20, but the loss to Bishop Kenny revives Baker County's playoff hopes.

The Wildcats will have to win for a chance to guarantee a spot in the post season. It all starts when the team hosts the Paxon Golden Eagles (1-4, 1-2) at Memorial Stadium October 11.

While the varsity team improved its record, the JV team was unable to continue on the win board. The team fell to 1-4-1 on the season with a 37-15 loss at home to Bishop Kenny on October 3.

Losses to Keystone, Trinity for volleyball

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The BCHS volleyball program continued to struggle as the varsity team dropped to 5-10 on the season despite playing better and having a key player return from injury.

The team was mostly competitive in its three games of the week and was aided by the return of junior Rebekah Long, who had missed the majority of the previous three weeks due to injury. She made her return in the Wildcats' 0-3 (16-25, 19-25, 17-25) loss at Keystone Heights October 1.

Although the team came up short, Long made an immediate impact by leading the squad

with three total blocks and her six kills was the second most for the Wildcats. Others played well in the loss, too, as sophomore Ashton Alford had a career-high 14 digs and senior Taylor Hancock added 21 assists. Junior Callie Wheeler led the team with 10 kills.

The girls returned home October 3 for the third annual "Play for a Cure" match against Trinity. The game raised about \$1,000 to benefit Verna Midgett, who works in the middle school's seventh and eighth grade cafeteria and is currently battling breast cancer.

There was a short ceremony to honor and show support for those stricken with the disease, as others in attendance who have been affected received a pink

rose.

The Wildcats played hard against Trinity, but ultimately fell to the Conquerors in an exciting contest 2-3 (25-20, 22-25, 27-25, 12-25, 11-15). The Baker County girls had a chance to put the game out of reach in the second set after rallying back from a seven-point deficit to tie the set at 21, but Trinity responded by scoring four of the final five points to even the match at 1-1.

Following a back-and-forth third set that saw the Wildcats take a 2-1 lead in the game, Trinity cruised through the final two sets to win the match.

Wheeler had another great match and she led the team with 14 kills and 25 digs. Long continued to be a welcomed presence on the court as she added 12

kills and two blocks. Freshman Lindsey Love had a nice game with seven kills and four blocks. Junior Taylor Hodges totaled 13 digs and Alford added 11 in solid defensive efforts.

The Wildcats once again went all five sets October 7 in a 2-3 home loss to Columbia (18-25, 25-20, 25-21, 19-25, 11-15). They fought back after dropping the first set to take control of the match by winning the next two sets. The girls fell behind quickly in the fourth set and the deficit was too much to overcome, which set up the game-deciding fifth set.

Much like the previous set, the Tigers roared out quickly to take a 9-3 lead. The Wildcats slowly chipped away at the lead and they brought themselves within

one when the score was 11-12. But just like the fourth set, it was too big of a hole to climb out of and Columbia sealed the game with an 11-15 fifth set win.

The JV Wildcat volleyball team hasn't had much more success than its varsity counterparts. The JV squad was swept by Keystone team 0-2. The girls then beat Trinity's freshman A-Team 2-0 before falling to the JV team 0-2. The JV Wildcats were swept once more by Columbia 0-2.

The ladies will return home October 15 for their final home game of the year for Senior Night.



Photo by Jon Shumake. Baker High's No. 8, Rebekah Long.



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