

# THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 35 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism including General Excellence in 2012

## JOY TO THE WORLD!

(and especially to all our readers) *Merry Christmas!*

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS  
will be closed Christmas Day

## 'Pill doc' gets five years on probation

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Former Macclenny physician Charles D. Scarborough was sentenced to five years probation as part of a plea deal with state prosecutors on December 9.

Mr. Scarborough, 77, was arrested in October, 2012 on more than 800 counts of insurance fraud, but pled guilty to the most serious count — organized scheme to defraud, which could have netted him up to 30 years in prison — last month.

The plea deal also requires the defendant to repay nearly \$60,000 mostly to Medicare but also to other big-name insurers like Blue Cross Blue Shield, now Florida Blue and Humana.

Police suspected Dr. Scarborough was over-prescribing large quantities of highly-addictive medications from his clinic on South 5th Street in Macclenny for years before the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Baker County Sheriff's Office raided his office and seized records and computers back in September, 2011.

The Florida Department of Health soon stripped the physician of his medical license and several of the offices' employees were arrested for drug-related charges as well. Those cases were dropped or resulted in probation sentences in circuit court here.

Mr. Scarborough was prosecuted by the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution in the Third Judicial Circuit in Lake City.

After his arrest, FDLE reported that investigators discovered evidence allegedly linking the then-doctor to over-prescribing and allowing unlicensed and untrained staff to practice medicine.

"The employees were then being directed to inflate medical billing to Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers for a level of service that the patient did not receive," read an FDLE statement at the time. "Interviews with employees indicated that Scarborough, a sole practitioner, pushed his staff to see 50 or more patients a day and bill for medical issues not addressed and treatment not received ..."

## Ex-county manager jailed on meth charges

See page 2



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

## 'Friday Night Lights with Santa' ends run at Heritage Park

The multi-weekend run for a new event series at Heritage Park — Friday Night Lights with Santa — ended the evening of December 19 with a bevy of activities at the west city venue, including a show by a choir group of children from Tiny Tots Daycare in Macclenny, shown above. For more photos from the final night, please see page 11.



PHOTO BY JIM MCGAULEY

## Presents 'rescued' after house fire

County fire Lt. Bill Primo was one of several volunteers who brought out smoke-damaged Christmas presents from a double-wide destroyed about midday on December 19 by what is believed to be a fire started by faulty wiring in a kitchen-laundry room area. The call went out about 11:50 am after owner Julie Cannon awakened to thick smoke coming from the south side of the structure, and she safely evacuated her daughter and three small children. Damage to the home and contents was placed at \$20,000. Lt. Primo was treated at Fraser Hospital for heat exhaustion.

## High school retains 'B' grade

JOEL ADDINGTON  
NEWS EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Baker County High School kept its B-grade from the state this year, putting it in the middle of the pack compared to other high schools in the First Coast region.

According to preliminary high school grades released by the Florida Department of Education last week, there were 22 A-schools, 14 B-schools, 12 C-schools and three D-schools in Northeast Florida.

"I'm excited that the changes we've made over

the last decade appear to have some longevity," commented BCHS Principal Thomas Hill on the latest rating. "This is the third year in a row we've had the points for an A."

Half of the state's high school grading formula is based on student performance on the now tougher FCAT 2.0 exams while the other half comes from four-year graduation rates, participation and performance in advanced courses and college readiness in math and reading.

At BCHS, for instance, 75 percent of students taking college entrance exams showed they were

See page 2

## County places tighter controls on field lighting

MIKE ANDERSON  
PRESS STAFF

A new policy to control and monitor the use of lights at county ball parks was approved by the Baker County Commission last week in an effort to eliminate wasted electricity and cut down on high power bills.

Baker County Little League and any other organizations that want to reserve baseball or softball fields in 2014 will have to go through new sign-in procedures to improve accountability.

Commissioners unanimously adopted the new policy recommended by County Manager C.J. Thompson at the December 17 board meeting.

A lax use policy in the past has often led to lights being left on all night, illuminating empty ball diamonds long after everyone has left, without the responsible parties being held accountable.

"The use of the lights at the ball fields has been a continuing problem for several years," Mr. Thompson told commissioners.

The same rate, \$10 per hour, will continue to be assessed for the use of ball fields, the county manager said. But that's about the only thing that won't change beginning January 6.

After that date, the process for reserving fields and using the lights will be updated, Mr. Thompson said, "to ensure consistency, fairness and transparency for all those involved."

Reservations for specific



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
Lights overlook baseball field.

dates and times will be accepted for a minimum of one hour and additional time can be reserved in 30-minute increments.

Upon payment, teams will be added to the calendar reserving the field of their choice. Teams may schedule reservations as far out in advance as they wish "as long as payment is received at the time of scheduling," the county manager said.

Further, all teams will be required to provide an e-mail address to serve as their "official point of contact."

The biggest change, Mr. Thompson said, will be assigning new combination numbers for every lock once a week.

See page 2

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

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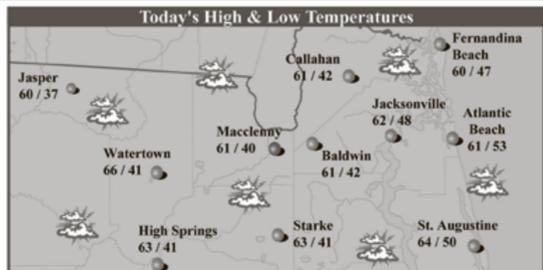
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The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast table with columns for Day, Weather, High, Low.



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

Sun/Moon Chart This Week table with columns for Day, Sunrise, Sunset, Moon phase.

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



A New Year Is Born!

May it deliver enough good fortune and cheer, to last throughout the coming year...

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

The Baker County Press will be publishing on Tuesday, with a Friday deadline of 3:00 pm.

BCHS keeps 'B' Places tighter control on lights...

From page 1 ready for post-secondary level reading, up from 69 percent last year.

How does Baker County stack up with other nearby high schools? Here's a look at the grades and associated point totals.

From page 1 "Locks on every field will be changed each Monday morning," he said, adding that the current policy "causes too many problems."

There has been a little distrust with the way things have been done. "There's been a perception of favoritism."

My niece Ashton Norman started the war of words by challenging people to bring their A game. "I am bringing fierce competition this year. Game on."

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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.

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.



Santa letters reflect 'outward' caring for others

JESSICA PREVATT | STAFF

I love this time of year and look forward to all the submissions for Letters to Santa. Every year I run the gauntlet of emotions from laughter to tears as I read them.

Let the 'gingerbread games' begin

As I sit down to write this column my living room is filling up with holiday cheer as the 20th annual gingerbread house competition kicks off.

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# Four years for battery

A Maclenny man who committed a felony battery in July while on probation for the same offense was sent off to prison on December 17 for 48 months.

Sherrie Jerome Lee admitted during regular circuit court session that he violated probation when he severely beat another Maclenny man who had returned a wallet he found earlier. Mr. Lee, 25, accused the victim of stealing it.

At the time he was on an 18-month probation. Judge Mark Moseley allowed the defendant nine months credit for time he has been in jail. Mr. Lee's criminal past includes burglary, grand theft and sexual battery while a juvenile.

In other prison sentences ordered that day, Carol Ann Parker, 22, of Maclenny got 16 months after pleading no contest to five counts involving sale and possession of prescription pills and marijuana.

Court records show the defendant, who has a record of similar offenses, sold pills to a confidential source working for the sheriff's department in late June. Several days later, investigators went to a residence where Ms. Parker was staying and found a cache of pills, marijuana and crack cocaine, along with drug paraphernalia.

The state dropped two of the original seven counts as part of the plea agreement, and the judge gave Ms. Parker credit for 161 days in jail.

Teresa Ann Diaz of Milton, FL drew a 14-month sentence after pleading no contest to a series of wallet thefts from Walmart customers in April and May.

Court records indicate the 40-year-old defendant used credit cards from the wallets taken from purses in victim's shopping carts to make purchases, and that she committed similar crimes in both Duval

and Clay counties. She is currently in prison serving four-plus years for those crimes.

Judge Moseley ordered Audra Taber to serve a year and a week in prison for grand theft of jewelry and checks from a north Maclenny residence in early 2013. Ms. Taber, 43, of Jacksonville was employed by a home cleaning service at the time.

She is currently doing time for forgery in Duval County, and will serve the local sentence concurrently.

Marcus Harrington pleaded no contest to felony battery, resisting arrest without violence and trespass and was given a nine-month county jail sentence less 106 days already served.

Melissa Kelley entered no contest pleas to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, resisting a merchant and driving on a suspended license and will serve an 11-month term in county jail less 103 days.

The state dropped a count of reckless driving.

The judge allowed defendant Mikell McKenzie 258 days already in jail as the penalty for sale of controlled drugs, and ordered an arrest warrant for Sarah Beth Nettles, who failed to appear on a grand theft charge.

Lindsey Townsend was placed on a two-year drug offender probation after pleading no contest to nine counts including grand theft, forgery and fraudulent use of identity information.

She must also undergo in-patient treatment for addiction.

Derrick Holliman admitted to violating probation in a 2012 case for bringing contraband into Baker Correctional and was placed on probation again, this time for 18 months.

## COUNTY COURT

# Dispositions December 18th

The following dispositions were handed down by County Judge Joey Williams in county court on December 18:

- Christian Belford, resisting arrest without violence; two days in jail, six-month probation, apology letter and 50 hours community service.
- Terrisina Bones, resisting arrest without violence; two days in jail, six-month probation, apology letter and 50 hours community service.
- Yasmeen Bones, resisting arrest without violence; two days in jail, six-month probation, apology letter and 50 hours community service.
- Chasity Ellis, petty theft; six-month probation, petty theft class and hold sign.
- Ronald Garrett, driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Tia Grissett, contempt of court; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Lauren Neal, DUI; six-month probation, six-month license suspension, attend addiction meetings and write Kentucky bus crash articles.
- Richard Allen Rhoden, disorderly intoxication; 12-month probation.
- Brandon Ruise, violation of probation for drug possession; 180 days in jail.
- Ernest Smith, driving on a suspended license; court costs.
- David Stansbury, contributing to the delinquency of a minor; two days in jail, no contact with the minor and court costs.
- Anthony Veto, driving on a suspended license; \$250 fine and court costs.
- Johnny Belford, loitering and misdemeanor marijuana possession; 15 days in jail.
- Wayne Jefferson, disturbing the peace; 26 days in jail.
- Jamie Lynn Crews, disorderly conduct; six-month probation and court costs.
- Michael E. Crews, disorderly conduct; court costs.
- Tyler Freeman, domestic battery; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Ricci Gaskins, driving on a

suspended license; 30 days in jail, curfew and attend addiction meetings.

Jack Hodges Jr., violation of probation; six months in jail.

Victoria Kite, driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

Larry Major, resisting arrest without violence and violating probation; 180 days in jail.

Jerod Mallory, violation of probation; failed to appear, warrant issued.

Sarah Lee Parish, contributing to the delinquency of a minor; 60 days in jail.

Ciara Stokes, driving on a suspended license and domestic battery; 90 days in jail.

Joshua Yarbrough, violation of probation, petty theft and possession of drug paraphernalia; failed to appear, warrant issued.



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# Local driver said at fault in fatality

JOEL ADDINGTON NEWS EDITOR reporter@bakercountypress.com

Police believe a truck driver from Baker County is responsible for a seven-vehicle crash that killed one driver and closed US 301 in Bryceville the morning of December 18.

William L. Davis of Sanderson was seriously injured in the wreck as well and transported to UF Health in Jacksonville after the crash.

Charges pend further investigation by FHP including whether alcohol may have played a role in the incident.

Both lanes of 301 were blocked for several hours due to the accident. The stretch from Baldwin north to Callahan is being widened to four lanes.

The crash occurred at a construction site where traffic was stopped.

The driver of the Freightliner, Jamin G. Middleton, 37, of Nahunta, GA died at the scene. Both he and Mr. Davis were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

None of the other vehicle's occupants were hurt, the report from Florida Highway Patrol showed.

Charges pend further investigation by FHP including whether alcohol may have played a role in the incident.

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# Arrested after third call

## Disrupting neighbors in the west city

A county deputy who answered several disturbance calls at the same west Maclenny address during the early morning hours of December 21 arrested the person allegedly responsible for them on his third visit.

Darrin Gibbons, 26, was on the porch of a residence next to his on Rock Court when Deputy Brandon Kiser arrived about 5 am, and was then involved in an argument with Willie Graham, 53.

Mr. Graham said the suspect arrived earlier and awakened everyone at the residence while threatening him with a knife. He then handed the officer two knives he claimed to have taken from the suspect, who was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Mr. Graham refused to sign a statement on the alleged aggravated assault, and said he did not

want Mr. Gibbons prosecuted.

In another similar early morning incident, two occupants of a pickup parked in front of a residence on Jerry Circle in north Maclenny ended up in jail on December 20 for disorderly intoxication.

Deputy Jeremiah Combs said he responded to a disturbance call shortly after 4 am and found driver Jason Morgan, 32, and passenger Alfonso Santos, 30, yelling at occupants, including Brandi Swisstack, said to be Mr. Morgan's ex-girlfriend.

Deputy Ben Anderson ordered Mr. Santos to pour out the contents of a plastic cup containing an alcoholic beverage, and arrested him when he continued to drink from it. Both men have Maclenny addresses.

Deputy Trey McCullough arrested Christine Harvey, 24, of Glen St. Mary for driving on a license with five suspensions after he stopped her the afternoon of December 18 for having a faulty brake light and a stop sign violation.

Her suspensions were for failure to pay fines, having an ex-

pired license and refusing to take a breath test after being stopped for drunk driving. She was arrested after turning onto Clinton Ave. in Glen about 2:30 pm.

Joseph Hash, 18, of Baldwin was taken to jail for misdemeanor marijuana possession shortly after a vehicle he was in was stopped for lack of a tail light around midnight on December 16.

Deputy Clements Leo said he stopped the vehicle at US 90 and St. Mary's Rd. and detected an odor of marijuana coming from the interior. He said Mr. Hash had pot residue on his shirt, and the suspect pointed to a partially smoked "joint" in an ash tray.

The vehicle's owner James Wilkerson, 19, of Baldwin consented to a search that turned up a glass jar with 13 grams of marijuana stashed under the passenger seat.

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# Drugged trucker gets five years for 2011 traffic death

An Alabama truck driver who ran a red light in downtown Maclenny in June, 2011, killing a man who was here for his father's funeral, was sentenced in circuit court on December 17 to five years in prison.



Amos Smith Jr.

Roger Smith Jr., 36, will be on drug-offender probation ten years after release and Judge Mark Moseley imposed other sanctions on him as well during that post-prison period. Mr. Smith gets credit for 673 days he has been in jail since his arrest for vehicular manslaughter.

Court records show that the defendant was released from Shands Jacksonville (now UF Florida Health) after a one-day treatment for depression, and at the time of the accident he had the anti-anxiety drug Ativan in his blood stream.

He admitted to missing a turn off US 90 in Baldwin when he

was supposed to fuel up before making the trip to Douglas, GA to pick up freight and said he was unfamiliar with the Maclenny area.

Mr. Smith's westbound 2005 Volvo tractor pulling an empty trailer slammed into the side of a car going north on Lowder St. at the US 90 intersection, killing Paul VanNess, 47, of Sykeston, North Dakota.

The victim died at the scene. He was a passenger in a 2004 Chevrolet driven by his 73-year-old mother, who was injured. Her husband died several days earlier and his funeral was the day before the accident.

The defendant, who also has a Selma, AL address and who was divorced by his wife while incarcerated, must also do 40 hours of community service each year of probation, including speaking to professional drivers. The Navy veteran has a record that includes convictions for assault, drunk driving and worthless checks.

The judge ordered a pre-sentence investigation after Mr. Smith pleaded guilty in early November, delaying disposition until last week.

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**2014**  
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Supervisor of Elections  
 Nita D. Crawford and Staff

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# Girlfriend beaten after refusing to turn over the keys

Police arrested a man the afternoon of December 18 for battery on his long-time girlfriend during an argument over her refusal to surrender the keys to their four-wheeler because of his intoxicated state.

Deputy Robert Simpkins noted scratches and bruising on the face of Sheila Crews, 35, when he answered a disturbance call at her residence on Cedar Creek Dr. north of Sanderson about 1:30 pm.

Ms. Crews, along with her mother and a teen daughter, said she was thrown to the ground and beaten by George Strickland, 48, during an altercation after they returned home from a gathering at a friend's house.

The victim said her boyfriend left the gathering irate and began walking home before she picked him up in the ATV and the argument resumed. At one point he attempted to wrestle the keys away from her, then allegedly punched and kicked her while she lay on the ground.

The accused ran from the property into nearby woods when informed that police were summoned, and was located a short time later.

Deputy Simpkins also charged Mr. Strickland with misdemeanor possession of a baggie of marijuana and a smoking pipe found in a jacket pocket during a security search before he was taken to jail.

In a second case, a criminal



PHOTO BY DARLENE ROCKFELLER

# Garden club jazzes up hot meals

The Garden Club of Baker County recently decorated flowers for the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels clients. In all, 81 plants were decorated and arrived with lunch on Friday, December 20. Pictured above with the flowers are club volunteers (from left) Ann Taylor, Carol Anderson, MaryAnn Ray and Pat Collier.

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PHOTO BY DANNY NORTON

# Keri Jarvis wins GOP Christmas basket

Keri Jarvis won the first annual country Christmas basket drawing from the Baker County Republican Executive Committee. Ms. Jarvis (third from right above) was awarded her prize on December 11 at Heritage Park in Maclenny by the Baker County Republican Party officers Kirk Gravelle (second from left), Lane Altom (far left), Leonard Davis (second from right), Christine Norton (far right) and Danny Norton (not pictured). Inside the basket was more than \$2000 worth of gift cards, including those donated by local merchants.

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# Chicken house fire cause murky, says fire marshal

Joel Addington News Editor reporter@bakercountypress.com

What started a suspicious fire destroying two chicken houses on CR 127 last October remains a mystery following an investigation by the State Fire Marshal's office in Jacksonville.

Based on the fire scene investigation and all available data the exact ignition sequence cannot be determined if the fire was accidental or intentional, reads the conclusion of investigator Ernest D. Cooper's report on the now closed case. "Until additional information or physical evidence becomes available this case will be closed. [There are] no further leads."

The roughly 24,000-square-foot commercial structure owned by Kenneth Crews of Baxter and located near John Padgett Road was completely destroyed in the early morning fire. Approximately 190,000 chickens perished inside.

The chicken houses and their contents had an estimated value of \$1 million, according to the fire marshal's report. That's higher than the estimated loss value in the original report from the county fire department, \$625,000.

Wood sections of the structure were completely consumed by the flames leaving only wire cages, support systems and roofing.

Investigators believe the fire may have started in a main office connecting the two chicken houses before spreading into them. As

the temperature rose, automated fans in the chicken houses turned on, drawing the fire closer.

The damage was too pervasive to determine the fire's point of origin, but a sample of the debris left behind from the office area tested negative for ignitable liquids.

The fire was the second at the location since January, 2006. Both times, the property was insured, Mr. Crews informed investigators, adding that no additional insurance coverage was sought following the first fire, the report shows.

Baker County units responded to the blaze about 1:40 am and were joined by a team from Charlton County, GA as well as Baker County Emergency Medical Services.

It took two hours to control the fire and the last unit left the area about 8:50 am, according to Baker County Fire Chief Steven Marfongella's report of the incident.

Another suspicious fire, which destroyed a mobile home off CR 125 south of Mud Lake Road, remains under investigation by the fire marshal's office, too.

No one was injured in either incident.

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# Three submit top Yule stories

Sara Hilliard and Cheyenne Thrift, both of Macclenny, and Sheila Coren of St. George, GA were this year's winners of The Press' Christmas short story contest and are now \$50 richer. Ms. Coren won first place, the 19 and up division. Ms. Hilliard won top honors in the 14-18 division and Ms. Thrift won in the 13 and under division. The authors and their winning stories are featured below.

### Ms. Thrift's 'A Miracle to Remember'

This story is about a boy that is seventeen and his name is Matt Stocks. His life was wonderful until he was five. This was the year that his dad and six month old sister disappeared. He does not remember that much about them. He has asked about them but his mom keeps avoiding it. All he wants to know is where his sister and dad are!

### Chapter 1 The Bad Start

"Matt clean out the attic it's been a month!" his mom yelled. "And don't forget your jacket!" "Mom do you see the snow out there?" he yelled. His mom didn't answer and he didn't see the point of yelling any longer. He grabbed his jacket, snow shoes and a duster. He went outside and to the attic door then opened it. He walked inside with dust all over him. So he cleaned from box to box and corner to corner. Then when he reached the second to last box and he saw many pictures, but only two caught his eye. It was a picture of him, his mom (who looked like she was going to have a baby soon) and his dad. The other picture was just of him and his mom. A tear came to his eye. He ran out the door and into the house. The snow was super deep. It was almost to the window, so he had a lot on his shoes.

### Chapter 2 The Short Talk Before Christmas

After he came back in the house his mom said, "It didn't take you long to clean our attic." "Well," Matt started, "I found these pictures, do you remember them?" His mom almost felt when she sat down. "Yes ... yes I do," she whispered. "Well can you tell me my sister's name?" he asked. "Martha. Martha May Stocks," she said still staring at the two pictures. Matt was amazed, he did not think his mom would tell him. "What did she like to do?" he asked. "She liked her rattle and ... and did you really finish the attic?" she asked. "Yes, I really did," he said fast. He walked away, to the stairs, looked out the window and saw about three feet of snow. Matt kept on walking to his room and slammed the door. His mom heard the slam and dropped the pictures. She felt bad, but she knew that she couldn't bare the truth.

### Chapter 3 The Delivering Santa

Matt heard the doorbell, but he did not think much about it. Then his mom yelled, "Matt, I need you to come here now!" He wondered what she wanted. He came down the stairs and heard his mom talking to someone. He started running down the stairs hoping it was his dad or sister. But when he got to the bottom of the staircase, it wasn't his dad, his sister or even Santa. It was the UPS man sitting inside with a cup of coffee on the couch. He looked out the window again, and



Christmas short story contest winners (l-r) Cheyenne Thrift, Sheila Coren and Sara Hilliard.

saw the neighbors and their kids having snowball fights. He smiled and kept walking to the couch. "Yes?" he said. "This man has a package for you ... and thank you for my Christmas tree," she said very fast. The man handed him the package and kept on talking to his mom. Matt signed for the package and sat down on the first step of the stairs. He tore the tape off, just as the UPS man got up and went to the door. His mom told him goodbye and thank you and then shut the door. "Matt put that package down and help your mother with this tree!" she yelled.

### Chapter 4 The Surprise

All Matt saw was the ornaments, a tree and an angel. So they got the tree out of the package and set it up. In three minutes they had fifteen ornaments on the tree. He picked up this paper on the floor with snow on it. It read, "Free Cruise to Hawaii on 12/24/13." That's tomorrow, he thought. "Mom we should go on this cruise," Matt said. She turned around and said, "That is your Christmas present." Matt really liked it. "Thank you," he said as he hugged his mom. She smiled and said, "I have our bags packed and everything" Matt said, as he looked at his package. "What about my package?" She looked at him and left.

### Chapter 5 The Christmas Cruise

Matt's mom got everything in the SUV and yelled, "Come on Matt hurry up!" Matt looked at his package, locked the door, and walked to the SUV. He looked around, now the kids at the house next door were making snow angels. He sat in the passenger seat and shut the door. His mom started the SUV and pulled out of the driveway. In three hours they were at the cruise ship. People were everywhere. It took Matt and his mom 30 minutes just to get on the ship! "Now Matt," mom said, "I don't want you swimming on this cruise, you will get sick!" Matt knew better but said, "Yes mom, can I explore while you find our room?" Matt's mom nodded her head yes and walked to the desk.

### Chapter 6 The Best Present Ever

Matt looked around and there were people everywhere on the ship. But there were two people in the crowd that really caught his eye. A man, who looked

somewhat familiar, and a little girl who looked to be about three or four years old. Matt saw his mom run up and hug the man. He walked towards the three of them. "Is he an old friend?" Matt asked when he reached them. His mom was crying really hard and said, "No, Matt. This is your father, Sean Wyatt Stocks and your sister Martha May." "Hi son," Matt's dad said and gave Matt the biggest hug he had ever had. Matt could not believe his eyes. "Hi, dad," he said through all the tears. "Bubba" Martha said. Matt's dad said, "I will never leave you again." Matt believed his dad. Matt asked his mom, "What was in my package?" He dad replied, "... That was a letter from me and your sister letting you know we would be on this cruise." A huge smile came across Matt's face. "This is the greatest Christmas I have ever had." Then they walked towards the dinner room hand in hand as a real family.

### Untitled by Sara Hilliard:

It was December 15, and Cara had no idea what to do for Christmas. They were living at the homeless shelter ever since her husband, Tom, had been laid off. Tom had luckily found employment at the gas station in town, while Cara worked part-time at the local dollar tree. Their son, Joshua, and daughter, Felicity, were too young to understand the situation they were in.

Joshua was in the second grade and Felicity in the first. Tom and Cara made barely enough to clothe themselves and their children, and fortunately food was provided by the shelter. Cara really wanted her children to have good Christmas

Tom at dinner that night. "Well I have some extra tips we could use to go get a tree," suggested Tom.

"We need that money for presents," Cara argued.

"We have enough money saved up in the bank to get them some presents, but you can't have presents without a tree. Felicity is right, we all want one."

"Alright," Cara gave in. The next day, Cara and Tom took off work to take their children to the tree farm. A worker there had noticed how excited their children were for a tree, when for most children it's something so usual and ritual-like.

He also overheard Cara and Tom arguing as Cara exclaimed, "These trees are too expensive. \$60? That's at least two presents for each of them!"

"Well Cara, I don't know what you want me to do. We can get them some presents on sale, even if just one, but these children want a Christmas tree, and that will lighten the room up." Really all Tom wanted was a Christmas tree.

"Sit, miss, we have some discount trees over here?" the work-

er said, trying to offer some help.

"Oh. Thank you very much. C'mon kids." Cara was embarrassed to have to look at the discount trees and have the worker overhear her argument with Tom, but at least it will save them some money for presents. They found the perfect sized tree at \$20 and took it to the shelter. The worker noticed how excited Joshua and Felicity were just to get a simple tree. He took their situation into consideration.

"I'm so happy, a tree!" Felicity exclaimed.

"I know! A real one!" Joshua added.

"Hold on one sec." Tom pulled up at the discount store and ran inside. He came out with a box of lights, tinsel, some plastic ball ornaments, plus plastic cups and hot chocolate. Cara eyed him. "10 dollars," he said. Cara gave him a smile.

It was December 24 and Cara and Tom had managed to get each of their children two presents and some needed items for their stockings. Joshua would receive a nerf gun and a Spiderman suit. Felicity would get a pair of

See page 7

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE FITZWATER

## MES class donates animal supplies

Students in Christine Fitzwater's second grade class at Macclenny Elementary School (above) collected supplies for Baker County Animal Control recently. "During this season of giving, the children took on this project to help their community and the animals who are waiting for their forever homes," said Mrs. Fitzwater by e-mail. For more information on volunteering or donating for the shelter off Steel Bridge Road, please call Georgia Monfort at 259-6786. Dog and cat food, kitty litter, blankets, laundry soap and dish soap among the more common items often needed. Purchases can be made at Bennett's Feed on US 90 for pickup by county animal control.

## Short stories ...

From page 6

sparkled boots, the ones she's been begging for, and a Barbie. Tom got his hands on a necklace for Cara, and Cara happened to have a new watch for Tom. They thought they did pretty good.

"Time for dinner, let's head to the dining hall!" Tom called, even though there was barely 20 feet between him and his family. They all ran to the hall. Tom had hidden all the presents in the tiny closet, and Cara had hidden Tom's watch in her pair of extra ratty shoes she kept just in case. They all ate merrily, ready for the morning. It was almost 8 p.m. when they got back to the room.

When they opened the door everyone gasped. "Oh ... my ... goodness ..." Cara was breathless. Tom stood there. Joshua ran in and Felicity had a smile a mile wide. There were presents everywhere. All under the tree, coming out of the closet, under the beds, and the stockings were stuffed to the rim, including Tom and Cara's.

"Who did this?" questioned Tom.

"Santa!" yelled Joshua. He was right. Cara pulled off a sign on the wall that said "From Santa, Merry Christmas."

"I don't know what to say," Cara cried. Tears were rolling down her cheeks. They entered the room, and barely shut the door.

"Let's all go to bed so we can open these in the morning," Tom said quietly.

The children woke Tom and Cara at 6 a.m. that morning, but they didn't mind. They were ready to see this too. They divided the presents into piles, and all tore them open. One by one they discovered the treasures. A Tonka truck, a G.I. Joe doll, a baby doll, clothes, shoes, headbands, socks, an electric keyboard, slippers, hair products, makeup, candy. Cara and Tom cried, and the kids were ecstatic.

"I think we all need to pray and thank God for Santa and his presents," Cara said softly. So they did. Cara and Tom stepped outside, "I cannot believe this Tom."

"Me either. I am so thankful, I don't know who could've done this," Tom pronounced.

"It doesn't matter. Our children our happy and so are we," Cara smiled. They embraced and exchanged presents, and all the while the Christmas tree worker was watching, smiling.

To see the final winning short story from this year's contest, "A Christmas Wish List" by Ms. Coren, please visit www.baker-countypress.com.

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# OBITUARIES

Page

# 8

DECEMBER 26, 2013

### CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

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## Funeral for Mabel Brazil to be on Friday

Mabel Carter Brazil died on Saturday evening, December 21, 2013 in Brunswick, GA at the age of 91. She was born June 20, 1922 to the late Alan Thad and Mozelle Varnes Carter. Preceding her in death was her husband of 57 years, Dallas E. Brazil. She was the eldest of 11 children and was preceded in death by brothers Alan Carter, J. C. Carter, Gerald R. Carter, Theo E. Carter and Artis E. Carter (Janice), and sisters Emma Lou Newbold, Janelle Floyd, Alma Starling and Claudia McCoy. She is survived by sister Pat Dickey (Franklin Hart) of Pineview, GA.



Mabel Brazil

She is survived by her son Glenn Brazil (Brenda) of St. Simons Island, GA., granddaughter Glynis McGee (John), great-granddaughter Mollie and great-grandson Miller of Marietta, GA and grandson Brandon Brazil (Chloe) of Montgomery, AL.; many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Brazil was active in the community as an officer and lifetime member of the Macclenny Woman's Club, XYZ and others. She was a member of a senior entertainment group called The Charmers which performed at nursing homes and various civic events. She was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church of Macclenny.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 27 from 12:30 - 2 pm at her church, followed by the funeral service with Edsel Bone officiating. She will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Hospice of the Golden Isles, 1692 Glycno Parkway, Brunswick, GA, 31525. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

## 'Gene' Crews, 84, dies on December 16th

Sidney Eugene "Gene" Crews, 84, of Baldwin died on December 16, 2013 surrounded by his loving family following a lengthy illness. He was born on June 20, 1929 in Hilliard and served in the prison and nursing home ministries for over 25 years as a volunteer chaplain. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Baldwin and a former member of the Biltmore Baptist Church where he was a deacon. He was truly a "fisher of men."

Mr. Crews retired from CSX as a yard conductor after 40 years, and enjoyed traveling, especially his three trips to the Holy Land. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and was Worshipful Master of Baldwin Lodge #217 in 1970 and a Mason for over 60 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents Blanche Ruis Crews and King Albert Crews, and his step-mother Minnie Lee Crews. He is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years, Marjorie Crews; son Albert "A.J." Crews; daughter Pamela (Mike) Hall; brothers Marvin (Lavonia) Crews, Lynn (Jackie) Crews and Phillip (Virginia) Crews; sisters Margaret (Farrell) Zitrower, Margie Nurhee, Vivian (Dusty) Ritsma, Cindy Burkett, Nelda (Chris) Mayberry; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; numerous extended family and friends.

The funeral service for Mr. Crews was held at 11 am on Saturday, December 21 at First Baptist Church of Baldwin with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. The interment followed at Mill Creek Cemetery in Hilliard.

## Linda Giddens dies December 21 at 62

Linda Rhoden Giddens, 62, of Bryceville died on Saturday, December 21, 2013, at the Mayo Clinic hospital in Jacksonville. She was a native of Baker County, a graduate of Lake City Community College and retired from Florida State College at Jacksonville after 35 years of service. Mrs. Giddens was a faithful member of Evangel Temple Assembly of God in Jacksonville.

Survivors include her husband of 42 years, Gidden B. "Gid" Giddens; daughters Carrie Giddens Gorski (Mark) and Lauren Giddens Bell (Jeff); grandchildren Hunter, Hope, Charlie, Douglas, Brantley, Myles and Maggie.

The funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 26, 2013, at her church, 5755 Ramona Blvd. with pastors Garry and Cecil Wiggins officiating. The family will receive friends starting at 6 pm Thursday evening until the hour of the service. A private interment will be held later. Giddens-Reed Funeral Home of Baldwin was in charge of arrangements.

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## Service for Bonnie Lyons on January 4th

Bonnie E. Lyons, 83, died December 18, 2013 in Jacksonville of a heart attack. She moved to Macclenny in 1956 to take a job as an assistant cashier at the former Citizens Bank where she worked until 1974 when she became assistant vice-president and manager of the First Federal Savings and Loan, later to become Sun Federal, Anchor Savings and CNB of Lake City in Macclenny.



Bonnie Lyons

After serving the community in her role as savings and loan manager and assisting the people of Baker County with financial matters, Bonnie retired in 1995 for one month before she was hired by Country Federal Credit Union as real estate loan processor where she remained until 2001 when she retired. Bonnie enjoyed her jobs in the banking industry for a total of 44 years.

She was born in Orange Springs, Florida on February 15, 1930, to Augusta and Ervin Lyons. She graduated from Pierson High School in 1949 and attended Jones Business College in Jacksonville. Bonnie was a talented clothing designer and seamstress and loved clogging. She was an avid NASCAR fan and was once treated to a high-speed ride around the Charlotte Speedway. She served as chairwoman of the March of Dimes program in Baker County for 10 years and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Macclenny.

She is survived by her brother William and his wife Dixie, daughters Sharon Y. (Robert Ward) Cobb, Patti Cobb, Mickley (Randell Stephens) Raulerson, grandchildren Amy and Lee Cannon and Billy Wayne Raulerson, five great-grandchildren, niece Terri (David) Hair; husband Johnny Lyons Jr. and his daughters Patricia and Simone.

A memorial service and celebration of Bonnie's life will be held on Saturday, January 4 at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services at 11 am with Dr. Brad Hicks officiating. Bonnie's family will be receiving friends beginning at 10 am at the funeral home.

## Friday funeral, Minnie Givens

Mother Minnie Lee Givens of Margaretta died on December 19, 2013. The daughter of the late Oscar and Dora Ruise, she was born March 4, 1938. Mother Givens was a faithful member of New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ.

She is survived by husband Johnnie Lee Givens Sr.; children Lavern Dixon, Lou Ann Belford (Steve), Loretta Givens, Johnnie Givens Jr. (Susie), Atawa Gaskins, Sandra Collins (Alfred), Michelle Givens and Keith Givens (Bonita); 16 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; sister and brother Frankie Mae Ragland (Ralph) and Pastor Japan Ruise (Edith); sisters-in-law Precious Williams (James), Roberta Clayton (Willie), Karen Johnson, Wendy Hope (Dan); many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for Mrs. Givens will be 11 am on Saturday, December 28 at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Macclenny. The family will receive friends from 5-7 pm on Friday, December 27 at New Jerusalem C.O.G.I.C. in Margaretta.

Combs Funeral Home of Lake City was in charge of arrangements.

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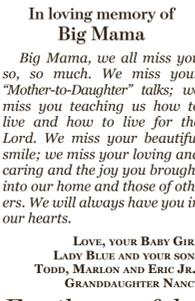
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My mind knows you are in a better place, you are at peace, and I understand that. I just wish I could explain it to my heart. There is an empty space in it that nothing will ever fill. I grieve, but I know my tears are for me, and you left behind wonderful memories. Four years have passed since you went away, but I feel a presence of you each and every day. Nothing on earth can truly take my Dad away.  
LOVE, DADDY'S GIRLS TERESA AND MANDY  
The family of William Henry Crawford Annie Ruth and J.D. Bufford and family Kelly and Evelyn Crawford and family



## In loving memory of Windell Davis

2/2/1948-12/25/2009  
My mind knows you are in a better place, you are at peace, and I understand that. I just wish I could explain it to my heart. There is an empty space in it that nothing will ever fill. I grieve, but I know my tears are for me, and you left behind wonderful memories. Four years have passed since you went away, but I feel a presence of you each and every day. Nothing on earth can truly take my Dad away.  
LOVE, DADDY'S GIRLS TERESA AND MANDY

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## In loving memory of Sheila 'Little Bit' Kennedy

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It has been seven years since you went home to be with Jesus, and I still miss you as if it was yesterday that you went away. Christmas is not the same as it was when you were here with us. I know that you are in Heaven with Jesus having a wonderful time, and that you are not in any pain. But we still want you here with us. I miss hearing your voice and laughter, and doing the things we used to do together. I know you are singing. So, until we meet again in Heaven, Merry Christmas my baby girl.  
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 02-2012-CA-00001

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVING, LP

Plaintiff,

vs.

BEINDA SUZ TROUT A/K/A BEINDA SUZ TROUT KIRK, et al., are Defendants.

Defendants.

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 02-2012-CA-00001 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, wherein, Plaintiff, and BEINDA SUZ TROUT A/K/A BEINDA SUZ TROUT KIRK, et al., are Defendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Main entrance, 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063, FL, at the hour of 11:00 AM on the 29th day of January, 2014, the following described property:

**LOT 41, CYPRESS POINT UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 90 THROUGH 92, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

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

DATED this 12th day of November, 2013.

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

GREENSPRING MARDER, P.A.  
100 West Cypress Creek Road  
Trade Centre South, Suite 700  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
954-491-1120

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk of the Court's disability coordinator at 339 E. MACCLENNY AVENUE, MACCLENNY, FL 32063, 850-747-5141, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days, if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

12/19-26c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 12-00049CA

JPMCS SPECIALTY MORTGAGE LLC F/K/A WM SPECIALTY MORTGAGE LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DAVID R. PEMBLETON, SR. A/K/A DAVID R. PEMBLETON, SR., et al.,

Defendants).

TO:

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST, ALMA S. RATLIFF, DECEASED

Last Known Address: Unknown

Current Address: Unknown

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

BENJAMIN W. MARTIN A/K/A BENJAMIN WAYNE MARTIN A/K/A BENJAMIN MARTIN, et al.,

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**SPORTS NOTICE SUBMISSIONS**

We welcome your sports submissions for youth league, traveling league or individual athletic achievements. The paper reserves the right to publish submissions. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

**CONTACT US**

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



Glenna Kaye Godwin

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON



Kasey Alford

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON



Maddy Perry

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

## Lady lifters end season with two key wins

**JON SHUMAKE | SPORTS EDITOR**  
[jonshu@live.com](mailto:jonshu@live.com)

Coach Scott McDonald's BCHS girls' weight lifting team closed out its regular season with two dominant victories over Creekside and Bishop Snyder to build momentum heading into January's sub-sectionals.

The girls' regular season ended with a decisive 68-18 home win over the visiting Creekside Knights on December 18. The team had lifters finish in the top three of every weight class, and swept the top two spots most of the classes.

Krystan Carter and Christina Perez finished in first and second place in the 101 class. Sydnee Watson and Kayla Sampley took the top two spots in the 110 class. Haleigh Crawford finished in first while Kelsey Anderson claimed second place in the 119 class.

In the 129 class, the team swept the top two places with Madyson Perry in first and Lani Foster in second. Meckenzi Hand and Rebekah Long claimed first and second place in the 154 class. Mya Whitehead and Kasey Alford took the top two spots in the 166 class, while Glenna Godwin and Jackie Anderson did the same in the 183 class.

Lacey Nettles finished in first place in the 199 class, while Madison Fox claimed second place in the 139 class. Brooke Adams and Brittany Webb finished in second and third place in the unlimited class.

The win over Creekside came one week after the team defeated hosting Bishop Snyder 71-18. Most of the top three spots were once again held by Baker County lifters.

In the 110 class, Sampley finished in first place and Mehan Eiserman came in second. Kelsey Anderson took first place while Crawford claimed second in the 119 class. Kaitlen Muse and Long swept

the top two spots in the 139 class, while Hand and Mallory Mobley did the same in the 154 class. In the 169 class, Whitehead and Alford claimed first and second place. Godwin and Jackie Anderson finished in first and second in the 183 class.

Carter and Shelbie Martin took first and third place, respectively, in the 101 class.

Perry claimed the top spot in the 129 class, while Adams finished in third place in the unlimited class.

The team now turns its attention to sub-sectionals January 10 at Bishop Snyder. Sectionals will also be held at Snyder 15 days later.



Delicia Washington splits defenders to put up a shot.

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

## The slump: Cats drop two

**JON SHUMAKE | SPORTS EDITOR**  
[jonshu@live.com](mailto:jonshu@live.com)

The BCHS Lady Wildcats' losing streak grew to five straight as the girls dropped two more games the past week to fall to 5-8 overall on the season.

The team was on the losing side of yet another close game that came down to the final minute of action when the visiting Yulee Lady Hornets eked out a 45-43 victory on December 17. The Lady Cats trailed by 10 points midway through the third quarter, but rallied back with a 16-3 run to take a 37-34 lead with less than four minutes remaining.

Yulee regained the lead shortly after and held on by a two-point margin until there was about a minute left of the game. Delicia Washington tied it up for the Lady Cats off her ninth steal of the night when she scored the final two of her 28 points with 53 seconds left.

But the Lady Hornets answered right back to take the lead and held off BCHS to secure the victory.

Baker County's defense kept it in the game as they forced Yulee to commit almost 30 turnovers, but the Lady Hornets' three-point shooting prowess was too much for the young Lady Wildcats to overcome.

The loss to Yulee came two days after the girls suffered a 48-25 blowout on the road to Terry Parker.

The game was tied at 13 at the end of the first quarter, but the Lady Cats scored just one point in both the second and third quarters to insure that Terry Parker would maintain a commanding lead.

The usual high-scoring Washington managed just two first-quarter points on the night. Kiala Pigott and Abby Rice led the team with eight points each.

The Lady Cats won't get another chance to break the losing streak until January 6 when they host Forrest.



Andrea Clark attempts to block the shot.

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

## Post-season sans Romo; great exit for Meester

### FAT LADY ROBERT GERARD

No more Tony Romo to kick around, at least for the remainder of this year.

Romo, the Dallas Cowboy quarterback who has been blamed for the team going belly up in the playoffs the last few years with late interceptions, is out for the remainder of the season with a herniated disc suffered

against the Redskins on Sunday. As someone who has had a herniated disc and the surgery that went with it, I don't wish that on anyone and certainly not Romo. But as the Cowboys prepare for the playoffs, they will have to do without their \$100 million quarterback and rely on backup Kyle Orton, the journeyman signal caller who played at Chicago and Denver.

If Orton leads them far into the playoffs, it could make for some interesting post-season talking points.

I just loved the send off that longtime center Brad Meester got in his final home game with the Jaguars. He got to run on the field alone to the cheers of the crowd. But even better than that, he got to catch a pass.

Meester was ruled eligible and moved to tight end. Chad Henne tossed him a screen pass and he made 9 yards and a first down. "The thing that ran through my head was, 'Don't drop the ball,'" said Meester. Unlike most Jaguar receivers, he actually caught it.

It was a real highlight to a losing effort against the Titans. • We're about to head into the meat of the bowl season so here's my pick of the BCS games.

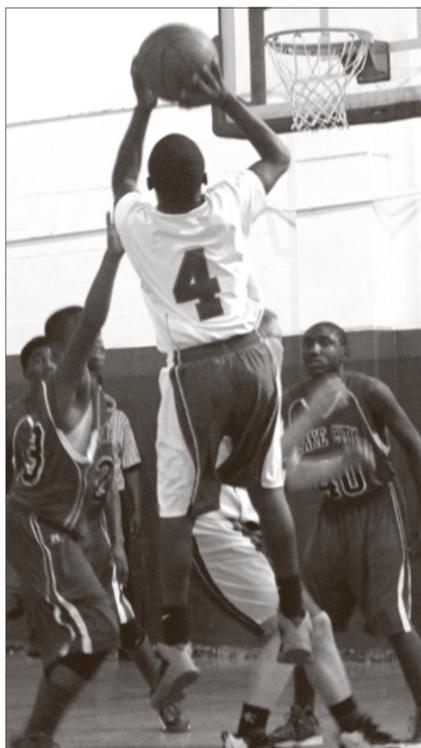
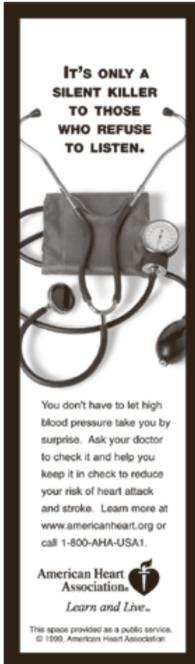
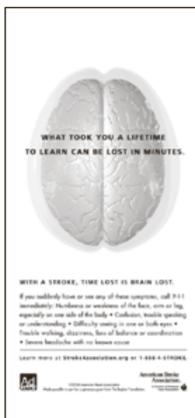
Baylor (sic 'em Bears) over UCF in the Fiesta 58-35 in a defensive slugfest.

Stanford over Michigan State in the Rose Bowl 24-17. This one really will be a slugfest with the best defensive line in the Big Ten up against the best offensive line in college football. Forget the skill players, watch what happens in the trenches.

Ohio State narrowly edges Clemson 35-34 in the Orange Bowl. I would like to see both these teams lose.

Alabama over Oklahoma 28-24 in the Sugar Bowl in another game I wish both teams could lose.

Finally, Florida State over Auburn 35-21 in the national title game. The Tigers are good but the FSU offense is too explosive and the defense too stifling. Go Noles.



Jamon Jones pulls up for a jumper.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM



Nicholas Lee calls for a time out from the floor. Also pictured is No. 21 Curtis Harmon.

PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

## Lake City downs Bobcats

The Baker County Middle School's boys' and girls' basketball teams both lost to the visiting squads from Lake City Middle the evening of December 19, though the boys' contest was much closer than the girls' game, which began first at 5 pm. The Bobcats only scored 10 points in the game, falling 40-10 before the boys took the floor at 6:15 pm. That game ended with a 8-point loss for the Bobcats, 42-34. The teams will travel for their next games against Lake Asbury on January 9 after returning to school on January 7. Then they will play at the BCMS gymnasium on January 13 for a contest pitting the Bobcats against the squad from Wilkinson middle school.



Jamon Jones finishes a fast break.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM



Kim Thrower (left) attempts to corral the loose ball.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM

### THANK YOU!

The Baker County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following businesses for candy donations given to the children during the Christmas parade.

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- Tregoning Industries

## Bradley laying solid foundation for the Jaguars

**JON SHUMAKE  
SPORTS EDITOR**  
[jonshu@live.com](mailto:jonshu@live.com)

The Jacksonville Jaguars still have a long way to go before they become a playoff team, but one piece of the puzzle they already have in place for future success is head coach Gus Bradley.

The coaching job he's done this year is nothing short of amazing. He's taken a group that was made mostly of Gene Smith busts, castoffs and no-names and has turned them into a competitive team that has refused to give up despite their 4-11 record. When the Jaguars looked like one of the worst teams in NFL history when they sat at 0-8, Bradley's inspirational coaching continued to give the team energy to fight through the second half of the season.

Even though the Jags lost 20-16 in their home finale to the hated Tennessee Titans, the team has posted a winning record since the bye week and has fought hard each game. The players continuing to buy into the philosophy despite the overall losing record is a surefire sign of good coaching.

The loss to the Titans may have been Bradley's most impressive coaching performance yet, even if the team fell to 1-7 at home for the second consecutive season. The Jaguars fielded a team that has been ravaged by injuries and still had a chance to win until quarterback Chad Henne threw the game-sealing pick late in the game.

But Bradley's creative use of a challenge when the defense needed a break to catch their breath may have been his most genius yet. The Titans held the 20-16 lead and were trying to close out the game by running the ball to waste the clock. Jacksonville's defense was obviously gassed and were getting gashed by Shonn Greene and Chris Johnson on the ground. The Jaguars' defense allowed a close third-down conversion that allowed the clock to keep ticking.

It was questionable if the Titans would pass the first-down marker, so Bradley challenged the spot of the ball. It was a brilliant move for two reasons.

The first, and obvious, reason was that if overturned then it would have forced Tennessee to punt the ball and give the Jaguars the ball back.

The other was that it gave the exhausted defenders longer to catch their breaths. The Jaguars' defense had several minutes to get their wind back due to the play getting challenged instead of the usual 30 seconds timeouts bring.

Although the call was upheld, the extra time to rest proved to be beneficial as the defense stepped up and stopped the Titans' rushing game to give the home team a chance to win.

Bradley is a smart and enthusiastic coach who has brought a new energy to the franchise and fanbase. He gets the most out of his players even when they don't have anything to play for but pride.

If Bradley can get this kind of effort out of this year's incarnation of the Jaguars, it's going to be fun watching them when they finally have the talent on the field to match the talent on the sideline.

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To our customers, associates, neighbors and friends, we wish a season of peace and joy. Serving you is always a treat for us and we look forward to your continued support. Merry Christmas!

**Harrington Insurance**  
371 W. Macclenny Ave. | Macclenny, Florida 32063  
904-259-1450 | [harringtoninsurance@yahoo.com](mailto:harringtoninsurance@yahoo.com)  
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**We Loved Every Minute of Serving You This Year!**

**Happy New Year** and many thanks for your friendship and support.

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**2014**

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**We look forward to continue serving our customers both old and new during 2014!**

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San Jose Restaurant	Tease
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**The Baker County Republican Party wishes your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!**

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PS3 console, 4 controllers (2 wireless), charger and accessories, 13 games. \$250. Call 259-2629.

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Now through Christmas Eve, the Franklin Mercantile will be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Seasoned firewood. Call Bruce at 904-

838-3130. 10/17-12/26p

Seasooned oak firewood. Face cord, \$70, full cord \$130; delivered and stacked, 904-316-4225.

Artists. Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more.

Camille Beckman hand cream. Root candles, unique gift items.

Office Supplies, printer and fax cartridges, rubber stamps and much more.

MISCELLANEOUS

Home Improvements-porches, decks, remodeling-any home repair.

Michael J. Canaday. Please write to: Friend, P.O. Box 943, Macclenny, FL 32063.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Adoption-A brave & selfless choice.

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers:

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We install 6" seamless gutters. Pressure washing. 259-7335.

Narcotics Anonymous. We are a group of recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean.

Alcoholics anonymous meetings Monday and Friday at 8 pm.

2000 Kawasaki VN750 motorcycle. New Battery, Stator, & Voltage Regulator.

ANIMALS

Happy Jack Mange Medicine promotes healing and hairgrowth to any mange, bare spot, on dogs and horses without steroids.

Dogs: all types from puppies to adults. Animal Control, \$65 adoption fees will apply.

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers:

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DRIVER TRAINees NEEDED NOW! Learn to drive for US Xpress! Earn \$700 per week!

2 BR mobile home available. 5385/month. Half acre; garbage, water, sewer, lawn care provided.

3 BR, 2 BA newly renovated home on Mud Lake Road. Newly remodeled; lawn maintenance included.

2 BR mobile home available. 5385/month. Half acre; garbage, water, sewer, lawn care provided.

3 BR, 2 BA completely renovated home on large city lot in established neighborhood.

4 BR, 2 BA brick house with approximately 1/2 acre fenced in yard.

3 BR, 1 BA house in Macclenny. 170 W. Shaw Avenue. CHA, washer/dryer hook-up.

3 BR, 1 BA house in Macclenny. \$700/month 1st and last month deposit to move in.

Spotless, well landscaped yard; 3 BR, 2 BA home at 640 Foxridge Circle.

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home. 9121 Dolphin Street, Sanderson.

2 BR, 2 BA \$650/month \$500 deposit. Extra clean, front porch. Service animals ok.

3 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 1 acre land with garage and fishing pond.

2 BR, 1 BA in Taylor. \$450/month, 1st, last and \$300 deposit.

2 BR, 2 BA on Boggie Street. CHA. \$550/month, 1st, last and \$300 deposit.

COMMERCIAL FR

For Lease- 1500 SF retail/office space at 541 S. 6th Street, Macclenny.

MOBILE HOMES

Like new 3 BR doublewide. New metal roof; great home. \$29,900 set-up with AC.

Used singlewide, good condition. \$9900 set-up and delivered.

Brand new 3 BR 16x80. \$35,900 set-up with new AC, steps and skirting.

259-5222

FENCE, DECKS AND POLE BARNs

Installed at best rates around. Field Fence+Aluminum+Chain Link Wood+Vinyl+Board+Gate Openers

And all fence repair 904-437-6828

Bobby Dugard Licensed and Insured

PEACOCK PAINTING, INC.

Professional painting Interior - Exterior Pressure washing Residential - Commercial

Parting lot line stripping Fully insured & Locally owned

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TRENDING & LIGHT BACKHOE WORK

Call Danny 904-222-5054

Firewood Available

FILL DIRT

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Signs & Designs by Ellen

Signs • Banners • Magnetics Window & Vehicle Graphics & Lettering

T-shirt Applications

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neighborhood. \$110,000. Call 259-8595 or 904-612-5279.

5 acres on St. Mary's River, zoned Ag; high and dry. Ready to build on; very nice wooded acres. \$54,900; two to pick from. 904-591-2640.

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

FOR RENT

BR, 2 BA. 925 Red Fox Way. Carpet, tile and engineered wood floors.

3 BR, 2 BA DW mobile home on Mud Lake Road. Newly remodeled; lawn maintenance included.

2 BR mobile home available. 5385/month. Half acre; garbage, water, sewer, lawn care provided.

3 BR, 2 BA completely renovated home on large city lot in established neighborhood.

4 BR, 2 BA brick house with approximately 1/2 acre fenced in yard.

3 BR, 1 BA house in Macclenny. 170 W. Shaw Avenue. CHA, washer/dryer hook-up.

3 BR, 1 BA house in Macclenny. \$700/month 1st and last month deposit to move in.

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Letters to Santa

Pre-K and Kindergarten Center

Mrs. Demison, Pre-K

Dear Santa, For Christmas I would like a robot, a pet rabbit, a bike.

Dear Santa, For Christmas I would like a phone, a rabbit, boots.

Dear Santa, I have been really good this year! I have sky landers swap force please.

Dear Santa, How are you doing? If you know my dad tell him I love him.

Dear Santa, How are you doing? I wish you got on to my elves I hope have'n't.

Dear Santa, I want a Big Broys and Obe two.

Dear Santa, I want a dragon and I was good boy.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

Dear Santa, I want a Nobby to and a now brbe ce sin a bin a good girl babe.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

Dear Santa, I want a Nobby to and a now brbe ce sin a bin a good girl babe.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

Dear Santa, I want a Nobby to and a now brbe ce sin a bin a good girl babe.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

Dear Santa, I want a Nobby to and a now brbe ce sin a bin a good girl babe.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

Dear Santa, I want a Nobby to and a now brbe ce sin a bin a good girl babe.

Dear Santa, I want a boy toy 3, toy 2, boy 1. Ben a god hip boy.

# Chester draws 155 votes to win

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

Chester, a 9-year-old male black cat from Baldwin, won *The Press'* holiday pet photo contest on Facebook last week, getting more than 300 votes from readers.

Chester's owner, Ashley Avinger, submitted the winning photo, which she took at home in November.

"And no, he didn't mind wearing the costume at all," Ms. Avinger said by e-mail.

Coming in second place was a 1-month-old cocker spaniel male named Cowboy with 155 votes. He belongs to Rachel Hodgson of Glen St. Mary, who took the photo of Cowboy sniffing a Christmas tree ornament that reads "I believe in Santa."

Another pet who was dressed up for the competition, an English bulldog named Herschel, was not so agreeable.

His owner Laura Williams of Macclenny said by e-mail he "absolutely hated" the reindeer antlers placed on his head.

"I had to hold a piece of ham to keep him still. Afterwards, he grabbed the antlers and destroyed them," said Ms. Williams' e-mail. "Ha, ha!"

Herschel got 112 votes.

One of the more unusual photos in the competition came from Christopher Brown of Brown Dynasty Alpacas in Glen St. Mary.

His photo of a dressed up alpaca named Kuz'ma, which Mr. Brown said means Charles in Russian, was taken at his farm in October. It received 22 votes.

Kuz'ma, who turned 1 year old that month, was draped with a scarf made from alpaca fur.

"He wasn't thrilled, but he probably would have been happier if it was say in the 30s that day!" said Mr. Brown by e-mail. "The reason I took the photo was really to show off the scarf. This is the first year I had my alpacas fleece turned into yarn and I found a wonderful woman locally to turn the all-natural yarn into crocheted scarfs."



Chester, a black cat from Baldwin (at right), won the pet photo contest with 155 votes. Other entries included Kuz'ma (above), Herschel (bottom right) and Cowboy.



**Oldcastle**  
For Baker County  
oldcastle4baker.com

*Merry Christmas!*

We would like to thank the fine citizens of Baker County for the kindness they have extended, and for listening to our presentations. We have strived to furnish unbiased, factual and scientifically valid environmental evidence for your consideration, and stand ready, willing and able to answer your questions.

We have received the support and approval of all local and state organizations required to grant approval and are still working with the Baker County Commissioners.

We care about this community and its future.

We expect to be your good neighbors and partners for many years to come.

From Our Family to Yours We Wish You a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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FREE book by doctor reveals what the drug companies don't want you to know!

Dr. Kevin Hornsby, MD, will mail the first 37 men that respond to this ad a free copy of his new thirty dollar book "A Doctor's Guide to Erectile Dysfunction." He's so sure this book will change your life he will even pay the postage and handling. If the popular pills don't work for you, regardless of your age or medical history, you owe it to yourself and your lady to read this book now! Call Toll Free 800-777-1922 24-hrs. and leave your name and address (only).

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Fresh Family Pack

**TURKEY TENDERS**

**\$2.99** lb.

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**Save a lot**  
food stores

Heavy Western Boneless Beef

**LONDON BROIL**

**\$4.99** lb.

Family Pack - USDA Inspected Fresh

**GROUND BEEF**

**\$2.49** lb.

USDA Inspected D.L. Lee

**SMOKED HOG JOWLS**

**\$1.19** lb.

Heavy Western Boneless Beef

**CHUCK TENDER ROAST**

**\$3.99** lb.

Assorted Varieties 19.76 oz. Primo

**BRATWURST**  
or Italian Sausage

**\$3.79**

USDA Inspected

D. L. Lee Sliced  
**HOG JOWLS**

**\$1.49** lb.

16 oz. Fairgrounds

**JUMBO FRANKS**

**\$1.29**



*Fresh*  
**PRODUCE**



**89¢**

**FLORIDA AVOCADO**



**59¢** lb

**GREEN CABBAGE**



**\$1.69** lb.

**VINE RIPE TOMATOES**



**\$1.49**

**ICEBERG LETTUCE**

USDA Inspected Fresh Pork  
Lean & Tender

**BABY BACK RIBS**

**\$2.99** lb.



USDA Inspected Fresh Thin Cut  
**PORK CHOPS**

**\$2.99** lb.

**FAMILY PACK**



Prices good December 26 - 31, 2013

**CROSSROADS SHOPPING CENTER**

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