**ABUSING CHILDREN**

Children were living in squalor

A Macclenny mother of six was arrested on a felony count of child neglect after police found that she and her children were living in a run down residence with mold and rodent droppings and a back room of their W. McIvor address rife with dog feces.

Deputy Justin Yingling said Tashanna Epperson, 20, first contacted the sheriff's department about 10 p.m. on April 26 following her 10-year-old son's missing. Deputies secured the south city neighborhood and found the boy unharmed at a neighbor's residence. He said he had earlier been playing with a friend when he was reportedly grabbed by a man.

Deputy Captain Clut said he later received a phone call from Epperson saying her 10-year-old son was missing. Epperson, 30, first contacted the sheriff's department about 10 p.m. on April 26 following her 10-year-old son's missing. Deputies secured the south city neighborhood and found the boy unharmed at a neighbor's residence. He said he had earlier been playing with a friend when he was reportedly grabbed by a man. Police arrested the father of a newborn child on April 18 and charged him with child neglect for allegedly tightening his grip on the infant when they attempted to take him from a local pediatrician's office.

Deputy Christopher Clutter said he called a "hug-a-noon" to Macclenny Pediatrics on South 5th when an argument broke out between Stephan Butler, 21, of Glen St. Mary and the mother of his child Cassie Miller, 18, of Sanderson.

Butler, 21, of Glen St. Mary broke out between Stephen South 6th when an argument said he threatened him with a knife. Butler was later arrested on a domestic battery charge.

Cats, Keystone co-champs!

The Wildcats weightlifters became state champions for the first time since 2011 when they faced with Keystone Heights with 16 points at the Class 1A state meet on April 25 in Kissimme.

"It's always awesome," Coach Scott McDonald said of winning the state title. "To me, there's no better feeling competitively than reaching your goal. You've got to put in the work, time and effort to go get it and this year's group really grabbed hold of that. The meet was split into two halves with the heavier weight classes lifting first. The Cats scored 10 points in the first half, which put them four points behind front place Arnold High School. Coach McDonald said his team was confident they could make up the points, but they didn't realize they were up with the state champions until late in the day.

Coach McDonald and Keystone Coach Lance Lowery agreed to accept the award simultaneously on stage.

"It took a couple of years off me," the coach said. "We knew how many points we had and we were trying to tally up how many points the other teams had scored. We ended up finding out Keystone had scored just as many points as us.

"It was bittersweet in the fact that we had to share it at the same time Keystone Heights are good friends of ours. I wouldn't have liked to share with anyone else," he said.

All 64 weightlifters on the Wildcat team traveled to Kissimme to cheer on the 12 who qualified for state. They watched as the Cats had five lifters finish in the top six to score the points needed for the state championship.

Blayne Merchant in the 183-pound class with a 67-pound total and Yabino Jackson in the 209 class with a 70 total both lifted their way to second place for the team's two highest finishes.

Merchant had an opportunity to win an individual state championship in his weight class as he was only five pounds behind the first place lifter entering his final clean and jerk attempt. Instead of opting for the tie and winning the state crown based on weighing less than his opponent, coach McDonald gave Merchant the boost to try for the state title.

"I always tell them that the first two lifts are for the team and the third one is for you," coach McDonald said. "Blayne looked right at me and said, 'I'm not going to tie him. I'm going to win the state championship until late in the day.'"
Squeezed an infant

From page 1 up and the accused arrived shortly after and demanded custody. She resisted and an argument ensued in one of the examination rooms.

The mother said she had been separated from Mr. But- ler, 24, by a security officer when he did not allow him to leave with the baby. She said she believes there are suspicions “sham- pes” of her evidence near Cayler.

Deputy Cherrier in his report noted he initially became con- cerned for the baby’s welfare when Mr. Butler refused to hand her over while retrieving his identification and instead held the baby by the small of her back with one hand and an ice pack to her face.

Stg. Ben Anderson also re- sponded and the situation con- trolled as Mr. Butler resisted efforts to hand over the baby to the officers and instead squeezed her with his right forearm as he held her tightly to his chest.

Ms. Miller squatted as the baby officers grabbed the suspect’s arms while Mr. Butler was being restrained. He also attempted to strike them during the struggle and once in custody they seized a can of pepper spray that had been in his pocket.

The baby was then exam- ined by the medical staff and had an area of redness around her abdomen, the result of being squeezed.

Stg. Anderson said Mr. But- ler continued to resist and yell while being escorted to a pa- rked car outside the office.

He was booked at county jail for cruelty to a child and

Living in squarish...

From page 1 friends and was unable to awaken him when he returned to ask if she could go back outside.

Mr. Wulff said Ms. Epperson had tes- timonial and admitted she had been out drinking with friends and was passed out in her bedroom when she returned home.

Deputy Wulff said the mother also could not explain the squalid living conditions...
Ramping up the ‘misery quotient’ when he gets a cold

I have a cold. I’m sniffling and sneezing and feeling generally wretched, and thus am making people miserable around me. Like you. You’re probably wondering: why, I’m even telling you this and not suffering in silence? It’s simple. I really am feeling pitiful. I just can’t seem to deal with the fact that they feel more like the dengue fever than a cold. And that’s the way I treat them.

That means I mope and look pitiful. Really pitiful. I look so pitiful normally that most people can’t tell the difference. But if I’m going to get around all day I have to really ramp it up. So when I’m sick it’s like I’m in a scene from Orwells or Con- tangoes and at any minute my face is going to fall off and I am going to be a zombie. My wife just looks at me. No sympathy there. “Go to the Doctor,” That has just gotten. “It’s just a cold,” I answer. “He’s going to tell me there’s nothing that I can do except wait.”

I get more sympathy from my friends. “You need a nice big pot of homemade chicken soup and lots of rest, and plenty of liquids” is the common reply. In other words I am in 1952 with someone’s Jewish grandmother taking care of me. Come to think of it that wouldn’t be too bad.

My mother wasn’t Jewish but that was her response to colds. I can remember if I was really sick she would have a fever or feel very cold and stare at a cold but I would always be force fed chicken noodle soup. That was fine with me since I love the stuff.

It was other remedies I didn’t like. For one week she was on the big liver oil.

“Drink this,” she would say holding out a teaspoon of viscous fluid. “What is it?” we would ask. Notice I said “we” because if I got it, my sister got it too, and visa versa. Since she was older, she usually got what I wouldn’t. She was naturally more susceptible than a little brother.

“A medicine,” my mother would say. “It will make you feel better.”

I have heard the phrase, “The cure is worse than the disease?” That phrase came into being because of cod liver oil.

I can’t remember if it was a cold or a fever or something in between, but my mother and my sister were battling my little brother’s head for the hills. She usually found me when I got hungry and had to go somewhere else to get something to eat. Her other favorite remedy was Vicks inhalers.

Back in the days of Vicks and canned foods, it was mostly a good stuff you’d go to coughing but also. Inhalers. Notice I said “back in the day” because the FDA discovered that whatever was in the stuff was highly addictive.

No, I’m not going to take it, my sister would say. “I hate that stuff.”

An argument ensued for a full five minutes and ended with my mother saying “It will help you feel better.” She would then gag some more and run to the bathroom then my moth- er would search for me.

Meanwhile, she would then be fighting off the colds. Her little brother.

My sister didn’t know that she just worked it. So smart Vicks Inhalers and wander around in a state of the rest of the morning.

Which brings me to paregoric. If you ask your grandparents or great-grandparents about paregoric they will wax rhapsodic about great-grandparents about paregoric they will wax rhapsodic about its healing properties. They’ll positively beam. Good ole paregoric.

In the day because the FDA discovered that whatever was in the “unknown” of who is con- concealed weapons permit

Perhaps some of you have come across the stock option strategy. Am I right. Hopefully those are the same people.

Bradly Metten: Sounds like counting your chickens before they hatch.

Barry Melton: It’s an annoying warning. It depends on when there’s a lack of rev- enue, not enough prisoners or the cost was greater than what the facility earned. Last- ly, what happens if immigr- ation laws change and the ICE program’s mission is changed (which usually is accompa- nied by budget cuts)?

Melissa Greene darkness: No, that’s gotta be more money sent here for the ICE program.

Floyd Lee Crews: A lot of good people work there. They should be worried.

Baker has third highest concealed permit holders

Baker County reportedly has the third highest rate of concealed weapons permit holders in Florida at 10 percent behind Clay (12%) and Duval (17%). What do you think about having 1 in 10 people eligible for the permits with firearms on their person?

Richard Clark: That what keeps the crime rate down. Only thing that would be bet- ter is to have open carry per- mits like Texas. Leigh Dubie Kay: It’s the “unknown” of who is con- cealed. Hopefully those criminal minds need to know there is a high rate of con- cealed carry right here and don’t try to find their- selves on the wrong end of the barrel. I personally would like it to be open carry.

Larry Payne: I’m a proud member of the 10 Club. Self- preservation goes on a long way in my book.

James Long: Third? We need to be first! Greg Gaine: I would also like to point out that (Nassau County) Sheriff Bill Leeper says in the article that most people let police know they are carrying when stopped; it isn’t a re- quirement. Not saying that it doesn’t happen, it’s probably good to do so, but it isn’t required as it in some states.

Timothy David Griffis: Awesome! Wish we were no 1. I’m not sure what the facility earned. Last- ly, what happens if immigr- ation laws change and the ICE program’s mission is changed (which usually is accompa- nied by budget cuts)?

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Two year term for violating probation

A Jacksonville man who violated probation for his role in a 2010 burglary at a church was sentenced to two years in prison.

Keith Wilkerson, 35, was given credit for 139 days.

He and another man were convicted of burglary in 2010, and the judge re- served his decision on the older offender.

Wilkerson was out on bond by the time he was sentenced. He will be on an electronic monitoring program.

$2 million bond set for Macclenny man for threats on officials

A Macclenny man remains in county jail this week under a $2 million bond, charged with threatening to kill both Sheriff Joey Smith and County Judge Joey Williams.

Oren McDermitt allegedly made the threats while conversing with youth pastor Michael Neal Jr., at the New Life Church on SR 211 North in the late afternoon of April 21.

The pastor contacted the sheriff’s department shortly after Mr. McDermitt poked off on his bicycle. He quit talking after the 36-year-old suspect as saying “he want- ed justice for his family and himself and said he could not take it anymore and that he was going to kill the sheriff and judge.”

Neal recalled to Deputy Shannon Ribe- riau that Mr. McDermitt said he was not talking, he was serious and would shoot them.

The sheriff’s department called a security around Judge Williams before they lo- cated Mr. McDermitt at his residence on US 939 west in Macclenny on the property of Miracle Automotive.

The suspect admitted being at the church earlier “to speak with a pastor about his problems” but denied making the threats.

He was reportedly upset over the arrest of his son Russell Chad McDermitt, 23, the previous day for aggravating domestic battery on his pregnant girlfriend, 17, at their residence on George Taber Blvd in Glen Hill, Mo.

The son was released on bond the next day and promptly re-ar- rested for violating a condition of his release that he avoid contact with the girlfriend. He allegedly sent several texts and told Deputy Jef Riegel he was in charge of the situation and was attempting to control it. None of the texts viewed by the deputy menti- oned that, however.

The older McDermitt was convicted of assault in 2008 and placed on probation. He has a record of mostly traffic violations, but the judge noted several arrests for “repeat violent”, battery and vandalism charges.

He has a prior arrest for violating a protection order in 2008, a case that was dropped.

In the recent arrest, the girl told Deputy Deputy Koty Crews that the younger Mr. McDermitt became angry when he found out this former boyfriend had been recently arrested at another jail.

The older girl said to the deputy when she was on the ground when she attempted to stop him from leaving their resi- dence, he called her a liar.

He allegedly made death threats against the other male, and against her and the unborn child. The officer located Mr. McDer- mitt at his residence on US 939 east where he said he was cooling off.

He insisted the loaded rifle was in his truck because he had re- moved it from the vehicle.

He was arrested for violation of his probation and charged with assault.

He has already made death threats against the other male, and against her and the unborn child. The officer located Mr. McDer-mitt at his residence on US 939 east where he said he was cooling off.

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OKAYS ‘FAMILY LOT’ DIVISION

Mike Anderson Press Staff

The family lot division is subject to flooding because the area has been drained for years, and the road would become almost impassible, the Goings said they have lived there for 30 years and it’s a home.

“We love it,” Mrs. Going said. “We’ve raised the dead there, but we don’t care.”

Board members, however, were not convinced with the idea of 16 family lots in an area, and the state typically will not allow a subdivision to be installed on less than an acre and a half. Mr. Preston said, adding, “It’s a concern.”

Unless the family lot requests a review and revision, the LPA board members agreed that increasing the density at a major intersection could lead to a four-way intersection a number of years down the road.

After Mr. Preston said that the county supervisors last year but has not been able to justify some of the expenses.

Although Cedar Creek Farms subdivision lot.

After the lesson, the board members also said they understand that if they don’t perform as expected the city will not think of them as a new lot would be less than half the size.

In other business the school board:

- Graded A for the first quarter of the 2012 to teach students about transportation and study transportation and study transportation and study transportation and study transportation.

Jocquez K. Ruise, a student at Baker County Middle School, didn’t have just one career goal in mind.

“No!” The audience laughed — politely, not uproariously.

“I want to be a teacher,” Mrs. Ruise said. “I have always been a strong supporter of the arts those governments.”

“Not only will they go through the normal ap­

Cemetery Meeting Cedar Creek Cemetery, Saturday, May 3, 2014 10:00 am

The board members agreed that increasing the density at a major intersection could lead to a four-way intersection a number of years down the road.

They voted the application down 4-0. It now goes before the ETV Board of Directors for consideration. However, the board members also said they understand that if they don’t perform as expected the city will not think of them as a new lot would be less than half the size.

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They voted the application down 4-0. It now goes before the ETV Board of Directors for consideration. Not only will they go through the normal application, interview and selection process, but the students selected to participate will learn that if they don’t perform as expected the city and county “may terminate them if necessary.”

据统计，该研究显示，孩子们学习音乐的父母也更有可能接受音乐教育。
Driving with 19 suspensions
JOEL ADDINGTON PRESS STAFF
A Macclenny man arrested for shoplifting in the afternoon of April 25, after a court date.

The sheriff’s department arrested a Macclenny man early on April 27 for firing several rounds from a pistol in the direction of a neighborhood party to quiet the revelers down.

Driving with 19 suspensions

No one was injured, but Dennis Push, 46, of Jacksonville, was arrested on the same charge the evening of April 24 after a court date.

The officer said he confronted Mr. Simpkins in a wooded area...

The officer then went to the residence on Lowder where Ms. Key said she was last at the address. She gave the deputy the name of a visible coins, rolled coins and tools were taken sometime after April 17 when she returned there and found over $1000 in belongings missing.

In a non-shoplifting case, a Macclenny man with 19 licenses, including a car and back out of her parking space.

The sheriff’s department arrested a Macclenny man early on April 27 for firing several rounds from a pistol in the direction of a neighborhood party to quiet the revelers down.

Driving with 19 suspensions

One of those arrested, Dan...
Child Protection Team opens Baker County operation

JOEL ADDINGTON
Managing Editor
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Child abuse victims and their families will now have a much shorter trek to get help from the Child Protection Team led by UF Health Jacksonville pediatricians.

The team of doctors, counselors, investigators has been responding to nonabusive child abuse cases in six North Florida counties, including Baker County, since 1978, when the state Legislature mandated the first of its kind. Founded.

Now Sheriff Dobson kicks the organization announced it will provide sexual abuse help directly to the office and county health department to help bring children to facilities in Jackson- ville and Macclenny.

Local officials including Sheriff Joey Dobson, health de-

Administration

Governor issue

Tania Roberson

Ms. Roberson named to BCSB

The Board of Directors and staff of the
Baker County Chamber of Commerce
would like to say a great BIG THANK YOU to the following sponsors for their support in our 24th Annual Golf Tournament held at Bent Creek Golf Course April 25.

Corporate Sponsors

Baker County Farm Bureau
Baker County Medical Society
Burkins Coastal
Florida Power & Light
Goldstein & Son Corporation
Haven Hospital of North Central FL
Jacksonville, so this is a great blessing for many families. They're not just comfortable here, I'm very appreciative. I know we're not the last place for
demands.

April 23rd county court cases

The following dispositions were made by Judge Loy Williams during regular ses- sion of the county court. On April 23:

• Eric Gombert, possession of marijuana; six-month probation and one of its founders, Dr. Gerald Schleifer, and others for a prayer at the sheriff’s of- fice in April 23 in the first time for which five suspects of abuse will be interviewed.

The first features several interview rooms, video moni- toring equipment and a waiting area for family members. The health department also aids side space for medical exams.

Regarding the First Coast Child Protection Team’s concerns, it said it took a “lot of community effort” to bring a satellite office here.

It was an economic chan- nel for the community to get to the district’s main of- fice. It’s easier, she said.

her first school board meet- ing is scheduled for Mar. 5 at 4-30 p.m. at the Olustee fire station.

“Otherwise you'll be totally at 46. Ms. Roberson said 18 people took enough time through what’s very sensitive for me. Ms. Roberson said she has two other men, submitted applications for employment on that board seat, but no ap- pointment was made this week. The other applicant re- ceived sheriff’s office investiga- tion for Chuck Brunan and retired civil service worker Leonard Draper.

Three other Baker Gopher

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Organic foods are those with the label "organic" across the packaging, meaning they were grown and processed in a way that's consistent with USDA regulations. This includes meat, produce, and sometimes even grains — about 80% of organic sales are produce. The above figure is for 2014.

The Baker County Press Thursday, May 1, 2014

Teri Collins (left) and Jade Gauthier package orders last week.

Teri Collins has joined forces with one of her store's customers, Jade Gauthier, to create The Baker Whole Foods Buying Club, a local cooperative that started in late February that has grown its membership to 80 and its product list to more than 800.

The buying club allows me to add a variety of organic produce and meats to Smart Market that I was not able to previously stock," explained Mrs. Collins. "As the store grows we will continue to add more. It is a great way for customers who are interested in joining the buying club to see the quality of what we offer. Some customers may not want to join but they can come in and get limited organic produce at very competitive prices."

She said the goal of the club is to help educate consumers who want to eat healthier diets and to offer a more affordable way to do so.

Organic foods are those with minimal processing and no additives that are commonly found in mainstream grocery store products. Such foods, particularly organic fruits, vegetables, meats and meats, are more expensive than non-organic foods, often by 50 percent or more. Plus, the meat retailers for many of these products are in other counties, adding the cost of a commute to the grocery bill.

"Baker Buying Club was created to provide whole, real, good food to the local community," reads the coop's Facebook page. "Our members enjoy wholesales on organic and natural foods."

The buying club attempts to reduce the cost of organic foods by purchasing them in bulk directly from producers or wholesales, and delivering them to Smart Market for pickup once every two weeks.

Membership in the club comes with a one-time $65 fee, plus 10 percent of the cost of an order for processing and packaging. After that, the annual membership fee drops to $25; it's similar to Costco in structure," explained Mrs. Gauthier, a New Hampshire native and mother of four who moved to Macclenny a year and a half ago.

"The buying club began out of necessity for my own family," she said.

Mrs. Gauthier was shopping at Smart Market and supplementing her groceries through a co-op in Jacksonville when it occurred to her and Mrs. Collins to partner, combining their resources and vendors to start a co-op for Baker County.

"It was a perfect match," Mrs. Gauthier said, adding that she and Mrs. Collins share a similar vision and philosophy for "being self-sustaining in Baker County."

The products available through the club are produced in Florida or Georgia and the fruits and vegetables vary by what's in season.

Among the club's vendors is a distributor of organic meats in Delray Beach, FL and an organic produce supplier in Sarasota, FL. A new vendor recently added was White Oak Pastures in Bluffton, GA.

"We spent three hours on their farms, even met the USDA inspector," she said of the fifth-generation family farm that's completely self-sustaining. The livestock is trailered, raised and butchered at the farm.

The club allows members to buy as little as a product as they want, as long as enough orders are under enough product to purchase at least one case of it.

"It's like Amazon," said Mrs. Gauthier. "This is the only buying club I've ever been a part of that doesn't charge on a minimum.

For more information on the club, e-mail bakerbuyingclub@gmail.com or find it on Facebook.

Launched food ‘buying club’

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
joel@bakercountypress.com

Last year Baker County got its first organic food store when Smart Market opened in Macclenny selling largely discount products from wholesalers. Now the market has a new partnership that is expanding its selection and helping health conscious shoppers save on their grocery bills.

Smart Market owner Teri Collins has joined forces with one of her store's customers, Jade Gauthier, to create The Baker Whole Foods Buying Club, a local cooperative that started in late February that has grown its membership to 80 and its product list to more than 800.

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Princess for a day at FGC

Baker County girls will be given a chance to become princesses for a day on May 17, thanks to Florida Gateway College and cosmetology students.

The college will host a Princess Party from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and girls between the ages of 5 and 10 are invited to attend. They will receive a new hairstyle, a new princess outfit — course, manicure, and make-up — along with a princess tiara and wand.

Attendees will also get the chance to take a picture and have their photos taken with princesses who will also be attending the party.

The party last fall was FGC’s most successful yet, with nearly 100 local girls attending.

“Something like this lets your little girl feel like a princess for a day,” said Niki Blankenship, a senior cosmetology student. “The nearest place to have something like this done is Jacksonville, and it’s a lot more costly. This is an event that just makes them feel good and we haven’t had anyone leave the event unenthused.”

The event is a fundraiser for FGC students to attend the Premiere Orlando International Beauty Event.

“歧视 does NOT PAI, BUT WE DO!

CRIME DOESN'T PAY, BUT WE DO!

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Tickets for the Suwannee River Jam are available at www.suwanneeriverjam.com or at any S & S Food Store.

"I got nervous before all my performances but there was just a lot of good talent there," she said of the April 18 auditions, which were the second round. The first came at the Jacksonville Landing in front of a smaller crowd of mostly family and friends of contestants.

Ms. Moore is not sure exactly what she’ll sing at the river jam, but it will surely be her favorite genre: country music. She’s a fan of Garth Brooks and other “old country” tunes.

Ms. Moore is scheduled to perform two sets at May 3 at noon and 3 p.m. One is 20 minutes and the next 30 minutes.

“It’s a long time, but I’ve done it before,” she said.

After graduation from BCHS, Ms. Carpenter hopes to continue her singing and complete an associate’s degree. If music doesn’t pan out, she says, her backup plan is becoming a beautician.

Tickets for the Suwannee River Jam are available at www.suwanneeriverjam.com or at any S & S Food Store.

Local singers chosen after April 18 audition

Even though the Glen St. Mary resident performs a lot, she says she still gets nervous before hand. And auditioning before a few hundred people didn’t help either.```
Now we just store them [in cell phones], he argued.

Skills, he said. "It's easier and quickly retrievable, and in our society, mobile phones are part of daily life."

Conversely, people who prefer memory exercises like playing word games, Crossword puzzles or other thinking games are more likely to dodge or delay mental illness, he said. And exercise their brains to exercise their mind. He said just like his mother told him growing up, "I'm a completely new brain!"

And Mr. Coffill then gave the audience to call out 15 random words, which he was able to correctly recite twice — once and without pause.

"You will be able to do that, too," he said, if they attended his workshop, which carries a $99 ticket price, or for two ($399, with children 10 and under free.

Mr. Coffill described the "discipline of memory" as a way of teaching the brain to function like a computer that stores information so easily and quickly retrievable, akin to how all we ever knew our birthdays and where our toothbrushes are located.

"I was absolutely blown away," he said, of the class.

The Memory Man, who was introduced to the attendees before his presentation, began by asking everyone in the room to stand and then sit when he called out their name.

Another demonstration came when he asked the audience to call out 15 random words, which he was able to correctly recite twice — one with the words in the order they were given, and again in a random manner a few minutes later. Audience members were asked to call out a number, 1 to 15, of one of the words, and Mr. Coffill then gave the matching word or sequence number, again with 100 per cent accuracy.

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Mr. Coffill said the "discipline of memory" was created as a way of teaching the brain to function like a computer that stores information so easily and quickly retrievable, akin to how all we ever knew our birthdays and where our toothbrushes are located.

"There are other options for potential volunteers other than sitting in with patients, including being a pet therapy volunteer or a clerical volunteer in the hospice’s office. Community Hospice also has volunteer opportunities to help with events and with the Chamber and the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency. Although there has been some initial interest from people signing up, there have yet to be many people also volunteer through the process, Ms. Miller said.

VITAS pays for a TB test and deployment fee. VITAS provides training for potential volunteers on the previous weekend.

She still finds time to spend with Ms. Dowling-Carter every other week. "I sit there and provide her company with someone who’s her age," Mrs. Miller said. "She has much to share and it makes me feel positive about things."
Retiree gala!
A reunion of retirees from Northeast Florida State Hospital will be held June 24 at the BCHS gymnasium beginning at 5 p.m.

The theme is $20 per person or $35 per couple. This price includes refreshments and food catered by Carolyn Roberts. For more information contact Caldonia Williams at 904-710-7910, or Virginia Brown at 904-710-7911. 

Money is due by May 13 to give the caterer an accurate count.

40th reunion
The Baker High Class of 1974 will hold a 40th reunion on Friday, August 8 with a dinner cruise aboard Lady St. Johns in Jacksonville.

Space is limited so make reservations now by calling 904-259-2153. Identify yourself as a member of the BCHS Class of 74.

For more information, contact Mary Kay Walker Unkelbach or Alaina Harvey via Facebook.

30th reunion
The Baker High Class of 1984 will hold a 30th reunion on Saturday, June 21 at Caladiums in Macclenny starting at 7 p.m.

The deadline to send in a $30 payment per person is Monday, May 18. Mail to Tamala Hodges Gal V.P. O.B. 88 W. Ohio Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063.

Deadline for scholarships
May 30 is the deadline to apply for one of two college scholarships available to Baker County residents who did not attend college after high school graduation.

Applicants must plan to attend a college or other post-secondary training institute and have either a regular high school diploma or GED for at least three years. The winners will be selected based on academic merit, community service, and more. Cost $50 and registration deadline is May 29.

The career development center will be held June 7 at the Northeast Florida State Hospital. For more information, call 904-259-9104 or Valorie Brown at 904-259-9104.

Poultry team first in state!
The Baker County High School FFA poultry judging team placed second of 31 non-members.

$200 for 4-H members, $215 for FFA members, $230 for 4-H members and $245 for FFA members.

Registration deadline is June 2. For more information call 904-259-2153 or email Shawn Bennett, the 4-H youth development agent at sbennett@uf.ifas.edu.

The online registration link is https://florida.4hcede.com.

All ages are as of September 1, 2013.

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meetings Monday & Friday
8:00 am – 9:00 pm
309 Macclenny Ave.

Check it out...
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Thrift Reunion CANCELED
The annual Thrift reunion has been canceled this year due to family illness. We hope to resume the reunion next year in the 1st Saturday in May.

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ECHO SRM-237 Straight Shaft Trimmers $199.99

Buy any Tractor Mower in stock and receive a FREE PULL BEHIND CART
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MAY 1, 2014
SOCIAL & SCHOOL

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All ages are as of September 1, 2013.
Mr. Blessing said he found the mix of income and poverty figures for Baker County in- teresting. The median household in- come here was about $28,000 a year, and on par with the statewide figure, putting Baker above two-thirds of the counties in Luthern’s management re- gion. “What’s interesting is there must be some people here making a lot more money than others living here, so that may be throwing it off,” said Mr. Blessing, adding the wide gap be- tween the poor and the wealthy of this family in the county. But Baker County is in the bottom third of Luthern’s 23 counties in terms of the per- centage of 25-year-olds with- out a high school diploma, at about 10 percent, not including GEDs.

With high school dropout rates soaring significantly less in- come than graduates, that data point may be one of the reasons why financial hardship was the most commonly identified bar- rier to accessing mental health and substance abuse services in the needs assessment.

By far, the biggest finding in the report was that the regions that Lutheran oversees, the combined area of circuits 3 and 8, which includes Baker and Alachua counties among others, has the second-lowest per person funding at $20.90. In the Fourth Circuit, which encompasses Duval, Nassau and Clay counties, the figure is $27.80 per person. The Fifth Circuit with Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake and Hernando got the least amount at $20.60 per person.

But, while circuits 3 and 8 receive 15 percent of Luthern’s funding, it only accounts for 4.8 percent of all the clients served across all of Lutherons’s circuits.

“Now we want to go out to the community and see where the money can be better spent,” Mr. Blessing said. Florida as a whole lags be- hind most other states in terms of state funding for mental health and substance abuse services.

Provider funding
Mr. Blessing said the goal is to reduce the share of emergency services and increase outpatient and preventative services to drive down the cost of care.

Though funding data pre- sented by Mr. Blessing was not broken down by county, it showed that the region manage- ment specialist Michael Blessing.

Lutheran is getting more than $35 per person with an annual contract topping $85 million.

When managing entities were created by the state a few years ago to consolidate con- tract management duties in the private sector, rather than the state performing that function, the scheme was touted as a way to improve efficiency and competitiveness bid contracts. But the first contract awards to the managing entities, in- cluding Lutheran, were not re- lationally competitive, Mr. Blessing said.

“When the managing entities were created the contracts were kind of laid out — this money is already going to them and this money is going to them. It’s not yet, but it’s going to be competitive,” he said. “There are already people tak- ing me out to lunch and giving me checks.”

Among the four DCF circuit regions that Lutheran oversees, the second-lowest per person funding at $20.90. In the Fourth Circuit, which encompasses Duval, Nassau and Clay counties, the figure is $27.80 per person. The Fifth Circuit with Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake and Hernando got the least amount at $20.60 per person.

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Funeral next Tuesday for Lisa Parker

Lisa Elizabeth Parker, 47, of Sanderson died on Thursday, April 18, 2014. She was born on July 10, 1966 to Sharon Maxwell and the late Henry Maxwell in Jacksonville. She graduated from Baker County High School with the class of 1984 and at an early age became a member of Trumpet in Zion Fellowship in Jacksonville where she served faithfully with the war ministries.

Mrs. Parker is survived by husband Isaac Parker Sr. of Sanderson; children Tamika (Julia Ape) Ape, Isaac Jr., and Michael Parker; grandchildren Daija, Tiaon, Nio, Jadon, Julius II, Faith and Ivan; her mother, sisters Stephanie (Stacia) Donaldson, Punny Maxwell (Gail Maxwell) (Anthony), all of Sanderson, Brenda Johnson and Annisha Maxwell; brother Anthony (Addiel) Johnson, all of Jacksonville; five aunts and two uncles; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, May 6 at 11 am at her church at 6007 Seaboard Ave. in Jacksonville. Visitation will be on Monday, May 6 from 6-8 pm at the Faith Bible Church in Jacksonville. Arrangements are by Tostano-Lafata’s Funeral Service of Jacksonville.

Linda Parker

First anniversary

The Forgiveness Church in Macclenny will observe its one year anniversary with a special service on Friday, May 9 at 7 pm. There will be a short service with Marshall Combs as the special guest.

The church, formerly St. James Episcopal, was founded by Dr. Velma Childers. It is located at the corner of South 5th and Minnesota Ave.

Wendell Scales, 82, of Glen St. Mary died

Wendell W. Scales, 82, of Glen St. Mary died on April 2, 2014. He graduated from the former Macclenny High School in 1949 and received a master’s degree in education from the University of Florida after completing service in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Scales was predeceased by parents Claude and Mae Maxwell Scales and is survived by brother Bob Scales of Glen St. Mary and sister Joann Scales Younger of Orange Park.

A private funeral service will be held later and burial will be at Taylor Cemetery.

Wendell Scales

Graveside rites

The graveside service for Annie Schulz of Starke will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny at 11 am on Thursday, May 8 with Pastor Earl Green officiating.

M. Shelley, Byrd and Macclenny Nursing and Rehab on April 14.

First Baptist Church of Sanderson

Burial Packages starting at $4,395

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Please visit our website at www.GuerryFuneralHome.com for more pricing.

Call Bill Guerry or J.D. Tyre.

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First Baptist Church of Sanderson

CR 259 S., Sanderson FL

Sunday School 10:00 am

Morning Worship Service 11:00 am

Wednesday Evening Service 6:30 pm

Graveside rites for Calvary Baptis Church

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Amy (Lori Ann Bliss) tells a story while Marmee (Hannah Nolen) and Meg (Maci McDuffie) look on in the BCHS production of Little Women.

Earth Day at the Ag Center

County forester Andy Lamborn led a tour group through the arboretum and teaching garden at the Ag Center the evening of April 22, which was Earth Day. The small group learned all about the dozens of trees that have been planted there since it was created in 2010, including one of the more unusual: an newly-developed and genetically-modified loblolly pine tree, which Mr. Lamborn said is a pioneer that the more common species have been sent to ft. It was developed by Arbor Gen, a maker of biotechnology tree seedling products and one of the largest providers of conifer.

Second weekend for ‘Little Women’

The BCHS drama production Little Women continues into its second week after a very successful first weekend run. The Louisa May Alcott classic saw capacity evening crowds.

Little Women is the story of a family of four girls growing up in Civil War-era Massachusetts. They struggle with life, love and making their way in the world. The story centers around Jo, an aspiring writer who is outspoken and constantly at odds with people but maintains her sense of humor and love of life.

The show runs Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. There is no Friday show. Reserved tickets in the first three rows are available by calling the high school at 259-6286. General admission tickets are on sale at the door.

BCHS will be presenting its 30th annual Thespis Awards on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium, and current and future drama students are invited. There will be the traditional awards ceremony for the current drama performers as well as short performances from past shows.

If you are a former drama student and want to attend please contact the BCHS front office by May 6.
The Lady Cats’ incredible season came to an abrupt end with a 10-0 home loss to the nationally ranked Ponte Vedra Sharks in the Region 1-5A Semifinals on April 29.

Ponte Vedra blew the game open to take a 9-0 lead with a six-run sixth inning that in- cluded a grand slam and two- run home run blast. Morgan Podany’s grand slam was her second home run of the game after connecting with a two-run shot in the fourth.

“It felt like the wind was kicked out of us a little bit,” coach Franklin Griffis said. “They still fought and played well, but we just couldn’t get those timely hits we usually get.”

The game remained a scoreless tie through the first two innings before the Sharks took the lead in the top of the third after some miscue- munciation in the outfield by the Lady Cats. A ball hit to deep center field and the ball dropped between the two outfielders at- tempting to make the catch, al- lowing the hitter to pull out a stand-up triple. She was batted to home during the next at bat.

Pitcher Mackenzie Win- gard was hit in the face by a low drive in the same inning. She was able to deflect the ball enough to avoid serious injury, but the ball still hit her in the cheek. Being the warrior that she is, coach Griffis said, she wouldn’t let him pull her and remained on the mound until Corley Sweat replaced her in the sixth inning.

Podany’s two-run home run in the fourth inning gave the Sharks a 5-0 lead, but the Lady Cats had a chance to knot it up in the bottom of the fifth. Kylie Holton was at the plate with runners on the corners with two outs when Ashton Ahlford was caught stealing second base to end the inning.

Coach Griffis said the team usually steals a base to dis- tract the defense to allow a run to cross, but it didn’t work out during that game. “We were trying to produce something and create some of- fense,” he said. “She got caught in no man’s land and there wasn’t much she could do. It’s a tough situation.”

The small fifth-inning rally was the team’s best chance to get into the ball game as the usually high-powered offense was held to just two hits by Ponte Vedra’s pitcher Averee Gede. Jennifer Hodges post- ed the girls only two hits with a hit in the first inning and a sixth-inning single. Even with the loss, coach Griffis is proud of the way the girls played all season.

“The season was a success,” he said. “We broke a lot of rec- ords and won a lot of games. A lot of teams would love to be in this situation.”

The Lady Cats edged out vis- iting Clay County 3-0 on April 24 in the Class 5A Regional Quarterfinals to advance to play Ponte Vedra.

Holton’s hot streak from the district tournament cur- ried over to the postseason and her fourth-inning RBI double proved to be the game-win- ner in the tight game.

“She came through with a big hit,” coach Griffis said. “It’s a good time for her to get hit.”

Holton’s clutch double came on a night when hits were scarce for both teams. The Lady Cats managed only three hits in the ball game, while Wingard laid Clay’s batters to just two hits in her complete game victory. She carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning before a lead-off single broke it up.

Wingard kept the Lady Blue Devils off balance at the plate all night by mixing up her pitches and struck out eight batters. “Mackenzie did a wonderful job, especially after coming off an injury from the district tour- nament,” coach Griffis said. “The rest helped her. She came out and pitched a fantastic game by changing her speeds a little and changing the place- ment of the ball.”

From page 1

Beat him.”

Merchant cleaned the 275-pound lift soundly, but he dropped the weight behind him on the jerk after moving his foot too quickly. He was disappoint- ed to come up just short, coach McDonal said, but the experi- ence of being so close to an in- dividual title will help him next year.

Jackson, on the other hand, scored 380 pounds behind the lead- er going into his final lift and coach McDonal wasn’t com- fortable letting him try to make up the difference. Instead, they tried to let him set a personal record with 353 pounds.

Valadez was able to clean the weight, but he wasn’t able to lift it past there. He wouldn’t go up and attempted to front squat the weight four times be- fore coach McDonal told him to stop.

Brandon Harvey broke the school’s record for the class and jerk in the 129 class with a 370-pound lift, which clipped him for third place after his 200-pound bench press. He attempted to add another 20 pounds to the record on his fin- al attempt to move into first place, but he was unable to complete the lift.

Fort Pierce Central qualifier Dalton Dyal, who was the only lifter remaining from the 2011 championship team, broke two of his clean and jerk at- tempts in the 119 class. The tragic death of his friend and teammate Ray Mangiafico, who was a member of the school’s 2011 championship team. The tragic death of Mangiafico’s friend and coach with the camaraderie he had with the lifters and brought the team together.

Now the team that had to overcome all the adversity had a happy ending.“We got a lighted ride right through the county by the Baker County Sheriff’s Office and the guys were going nuts hang- ing their medals out the win- dow,” coach McDonal said. “I’m sure we got people look- ing at us like we were crazy. The community has been so supportive of everyone. We had to be proud of our team. We had to show what we’re made of.”

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The Lady Cats高级五名球后于4月24日战胜克莱。

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Three Baker County youths were selected to play in this Sunday’s Florida Spring Youth Football League pro bowl game in Tarpon Springs.

Michael Johnson, 13, Ross Crummey, 11, of South Macclenny and Dyler Davis, 13, played in the eighth-eighth league in the 11-13 age division for the North Florida Spartans, which won its district title before falling in the second round of the state playoffs.

“Eight-on-eight football is really getting a lot of attention these kids who want football year round,” said David Crummey, who was named a coach for the pro bowl game as well. He’s the youngest player’s father.

“It is fast paced, and hard hitting and is played on a field that is 60 yards wide and 80 yards long,” he said by e-mail. “It was our first year in the league and the kids played hard and really bought in. We ended up winning the district championship and were one game away from the state championship.

“It is a big honor for the players that were selected and they will represent Baker County to the fullest.”

The players will be at Winn-Dixie Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. raising money for the trip to Tarpon Springs.

From left are Michael Johnson, Ross Crummey and Dyler Davis.
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. Online at www.bakercountypress.com or email jonshu@live.com

SPOTLIGHT

Chamber golf tourney last week

The Chamber of Commerce’s annual golf tournament drew 80-plus players this year, some of whom are pictured here. See page 17 for a wrap of results from the April 25 event, including who won first and second place and who nearly lost a toe. Visit www.bakercountypress.com to see videos from the tournament.

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Former Cats win golf event

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
proprietor@bakercountygazette.com

A group of mostly former Wildcat baseball players won this year’s annual Baker County Chamber of Commerce golf tournament at the course the morning of April 25.

Braydon Stone, vice president of Stone Transports, Macclenny, along with Jarell Rodger, Mason Sweat and Hunter Bell finished in first place with a score of 61.

All but Mr. Sweat, a senior at BCHS and baseball team manager, were wearing T-shirts and a free foursome at the Creek.

“We had a pretty good team, so we knew we had a chance to win it,” said Mr. Stone.

In fact, his teammate, Mr. Bell, who pitched for the team, said he expected the tournament to raise about $6000.

To see video from the tournament, please visit www.bakercountygazette.com.
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