



Commission passes on seeking bids to privatize EMS

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First day of official football practice for the Wildcats

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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75¢

AUGUST 7, 2014 THURSDAY

Felons arrested with meth inventory

County deputies acting on a tip collared two convicted felons at a trailer home in south-east Baker County the evening of July 31 and seized a sizable inventory of ingredients and equipment used to produce methamphetamine.



Bradley Griffis



Ciara Stokes

Arrested at the scene were Bradley Griffis, 22, who served time in prison for the same offense two years ago and currently has a case pending against him, and Ciara Stokes, 27, who has a lengthy criminal record and was wanted on three

See page 7

Meth lab uncovered at a motel

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A 24-year-old woman from Raiford was arrested and two more suspects are sought in connection with a meth lab discovered at the Macclenny Travel Lodge by the sheriff's office on July 22.

Sandra Jean Cooper faces charges of tampering with evidence, producing meth and possession of meth ingredients. Police were summoned to one of two hotel rooms she checked into at the motel when Ms. Cooper texted suicidal threats

See page 6

15 years for drug dealer and sex offender

See page 9

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

14% property tax hike on horizon

Final vote scheduled Sept. 16th

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Brace yourselves, Baker County property owners. Unless county commissioners reverse themselves in the next month or so taxes will take a bigger chunk of household budgets and business profits in 2014-15.

Faced with a tight budget and a gaping deficit of \$1,798,951, commissioners voted 3-2 Monday to boost the tax rate on real estate nearly 14 percent to help fund a \$27 million spending plan for the new fiscal year beginning October 1.

"That is tentative," Commission Chairman Jimmy Anderson said after the vote, which he supported along with Commissioners Gordon Crews and Mark Hartley. Commissioners Adam Giddens and James Croft voted against the measure.

If the tentative rate is adopted at a final budget hearing on September 16 the current 7.2916 millage rate would



Photos by Joel Addington

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County commissioners (above) and Sheriff Joey Dobson (at left) discuss the county budget Monday afternoon.



jump to 8.2916, which equals about \$8.30 per \$1,000 of taxable property value.

The proposed tax hike comes at a time when rising property values are expected to add about \$175,900 to county coffers next year. That's ap-

proximately a 3.27 percent increase in tax revenue.

Officials said the county budget is already lean as it is and a tax hike may be unavoidable unless funding for non-essential public services — such as recreation, animal control, veteran services and the Council on Aging — is eliminated or severely slashed.

Commissioner Anderson said he had gone through the budget and found a number of ways that the county could save

\$1.2 million by eliminating funding for numerous public services such as animal control, which would save \$112,665.

But every budget cut comes with a consequence that people might not like, he said.

"We can have dogs and cats running all over our county biting children," Commissioner Anderson said.

The issue boils down to what level of services people would be willing to give up in order to reduce expenditures,

he said. For example, he said a \$90,000 subsidy from the general fund to the solid waste department could be cut but the result might be "dumpsters falling apart and trash all over the county."

Commissioner Anderson said he was not in favor of any reductions in services, nor would he support a move to cut \$100,000 in the new budget to fund the first pay raise for

See page 4

Oldcastle mining proposal may be dead due to a quirk

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

County Manager C.J. Thompson received word from the county attorney last week that Oldcastle Southern Group, the company behind a sand mining plan turned away by county commissioners last July, has withdrawn from mediation proceedings that began last fall.

But the company, which hasn't responded to requests for comment, may have abandoned its effort to overturn the county's denial altogether, said county commissioner Adam Giddens on July 29.

He said it's possible that Oldcastle will not file a lawsuit against the county because a recent discovery may have weakened the company's legal position, essentially that commissioners failed to approve its mining plans based on heated rhetoric from constituents rather than evidence based in science.

According to Mr. Giddens, county officials have known for a few months about a provision in the county's Development of Regional Impact, or DRI, agreement with another mining company, DuPont, which owns the land that Oldcastle hoped to extract sand from. The agreement, first approved in 1988 and revised several times since, calls for DuPont to restore the site to its pre-mining state once mining operations cease.

The company has been extracting titanium from more than 12,000 acres in the southeastern county for more than three decades now.

County attorney Rich Komando explained this week that if Oldcastle bought the property for sand mining, the company would have to abide by the terms of the DRI, including the post-mining restoration work. He shared the same argument with Oldcastle's attorney, Sam Goran, during the mediation process.

The information may have persuaded Oldcastle to quit mediation because such restoration activities would be contrary to Oldcastle's original proposal to create lakes for hydraulic dredge mining. After some five decades of mining operations, the lakes and surrounding land were to be donated to the public, per the company's proposal.

Mr. Goren declined to comment on the matter, however.

The DRI agreement was reviewed by Mr. Komando after DuPont requested late last year that the county rescind the agreement, an option that became available after changes in state law in 2011 that exempted mineral mining from the DRI review process.

DuPont first approached the county about rescinding the DRI agreement about that time through informal discussions, explained county planning director Ed Preston.

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At that point they [Dupont] said they weren't sure if they wanted to abandon it, but then a year or two later, maybe 18 months ago, they decided to do it.

-Ed Preston
Planning and zoning director



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

'Night out' packs park

The fourth annual National Night Out event sponsored by the sheriff's office at Memorial Park on Tuesday drew a large crowd, including Michael Maxam, 7, of Glen St. Mary above. He and other children got to try on firefighter gear during the event, which featured exhibits and demonstrations by firefighters, EMS, police and corrections officers. See more photos from the event on page 13.

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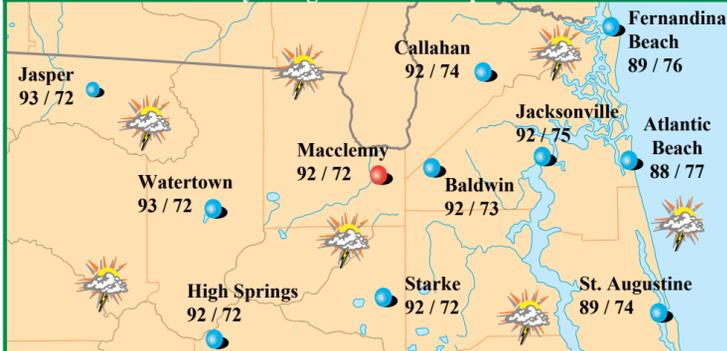
The Baker County Press Weather

Aug. 7, 2014

Seven Day Forecast

-  **Thursday**
Isolated T-storms
High: 92 Low: 72
-  **Friday**
Isolated T-storms
High: 93 Low: 72
-  **Saturday**
Isolated T-storms
High: 91 Low: 73
-  **Sunday**
Mostly Sunny
High: 90 Low: 73
-  **Monday**
Isolated T-storms
High: 91 Low: 71
-  **Tuesday**
Partly Cloudy
High: 91 Low: 70
-  **Wednesday**
Mostly Sunny
High: 95 Low: 72

Today's High & Low Temperatures



Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	
Mon, 7/28	91	77	93/72	0.00"	Precipitation 0.02"
Tue, 7/29	93	73	93/72	0.00"	Normal precipitation 1.46"
Wed, 7/30	91	66	92/72	0.00"	Departure from normal -1.44"
Thu, 7/31	91	64	92/72	0.00"	Average temperature 80.8°
Fri, 8/1	91	72	93/72	0.01"	Average normal temperature 82.2°
Sat, 8/2	91	70	92/72	0.00"	Departure from normal -1.4°
Sun, 8/3	88	73	92/72	0.01"	

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thursday	6:51 a.m.	8:17 p.m.	 New 8/25
Friday	6:51 a.m.	8:16 p.m.	
Saturday	6:52 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	 Last 8/17
Sunday	6:53 a.m.	8:14 p.m.	
Monday	6:53 a.m.	8:13 p.m.	 First 9/2
Tuesday	6:54 a.m.	8:12 p.m.	
Wednesday	6:54 a.m.	8:11 p.m.	

St. Mary's River Levels

	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	5.27 ft.	+0.08 ft.
Macclenny	2.90 ft.	-0.07 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	9:41-11:41	9:11-11:11
Fri	10:42-12:42	10:12-12:12
Sat	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:00
Sun	11:42-1:42	11:12-1:12
Mon	12:10-2:10	12:40-2:40
Tue	1:07-3:07	1:37-3:37
Wed	2:01-4:01	2:31-4:31

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather History

Aug. 7, 1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, Colo. washed a train from the tracks, killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train, dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent.

Traffic stops lead to trio of warrant-related arrests

County deputies the past week made three warrant-related arrests that resulted from routine traffic stops.

Keyatta Walker, 24, of Jacksonville was a passenger in a 2003 Nissan stopped by Deputy Trey McCullough on South Boulevard in Macclenny just after midnight on August 1.

The officer learned she was wanted in Hillsborough County for violating probation on a conviction for driving on a suspended license, and in Baker County for failure to appear in court for disorderly conduct.

Cheryl Manasco, 33, of Baldwin, who was driving the vehicle, was ticketed for failure to have her driver's license. The vehicle was stopped for having an inoperable tail light.

Another passenger, Rodrick Sapp, 30, of Baldwin was arrested when Deputy Chris

Walker learned he was wanted in Jacksonville for robbery.

He was a passenger in a 1992 GMC van stopped in the BP store parking lot shortly after 11 pm on August 1 for having faulty equipment.

Deputy Justin Yingling ar-

rested Lee Lyon, 49, of Jacksonville the evening of July 28 on a warrant from St. Johns County for failure to pay child support.

Mr. Lyon was stopped in his 2003 Ford pickup near US 90 and CR 250A east of Olus-

tee by Officer Chris Cason of the U.S. Forest Service for an unspecified offense.

Joseph Hash, 19, of Baldwin was already in county jail on August 2 when served with a Duval County warrant for

failure to appear in court on a probation violation stemming from a burglary conviction.

Mr. Hash is currently on probation in Baker County for possession of drug paraphernalia.

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Son C. Greg Combs, 35, Captain with Florida Department of Corrections, wife **LaDonna**, owner of Combs' Cakes and son **Mitchael**.

Son Robert Digsby, 33, Iraq and Afghanistan U.S. Army veteran.

Son Jeremiah Combs, 32, Baker County Sheriff's Office deputy, wife **Kimberly**, insurance clerk for Florida Farm Bureau and sons **Karson & Kane**.

Ander Crenshaw is the proven conservative.

He gets things done.

Vote August 26th!

ISSUE

CRENSHAW'S CONSERVATIVE CHECKLIST

OBAMACARE

- ✓ OPPOSED FROM DAY 1!
- ✓ VOTED 50+ TIMES to defund/dismantle/repeal

SECOND AMENDMENT

- ✓ ENDORSED by the NRA

VETERANS

- ✓ FOUGHT for Veterans Cemetery and Veterans Clinic in Jacksonville

PRO-LIFE

- ✓ RATED 100% by National Right to Life

FAMILY

- ✓ RATED 100% by the Christian Coalition

JOBS, DEFENSE & SECURITY

- ✓ BROUGHT New Ships & Missions to Local Military Bases

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

- ✓ RATED 94% by Americans for Tax Reform

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Congressional seat to change?

The political drama unfolding later this week in Tallahassee could have an immediate impact on who represents Baker County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The reason?

A circuit judge in Tallahassee recently ruled that two congressional districts in Florida (District 2 in north-central Florida and District 10 in central Florida) violate the letter and spirit of a 2010 amendment to the state constitution that they not be drawn to benefit a certain candidate or political party.

The Florida Legislature begins a special nine-day session on Thursday to re-draw the districts, and a larger debate looms over whether the process will disrupt upcoming primary and general elections.

Of greatest concern to Baker County citizens is whether this process will allow us to continue to be represented in the House by one congressman, and more importantly, who that person will be.

Assuming present incumbents will emerge victorious in November, we could keep conservative Republican Ander Crenshaw. Or we could get Democrat Corrine Brown back again.

Ms. Brown, who represented an east-west sliver of Baker County in another gerrymandered district two decades ago, currently presides over what some have called the most haphazardly-drawn district in the United States.

It snakes down from north Jacksonville south into Orange County (that's Disney territory), and was drawn by a Republican-controlled legislature mostly as a means to keep Ms. Brown, a black liberal, contained. Cynical, you say?

Her District 5, for which she is unopposed on the Democrat side but facing a Republican opponent in November, picks up pockets of black neighborhoods as it meanders roughly parallel to the St. Johns River south from Jacksonville.

Most surely, the district will be re-drawn and it could easily wend its way west along the Interstate 10 corridor, much the same as does the present map of Rep. Crenshaw's district.

That would give us a congressional representative who has never, ever, strayed from voting lockstep with the likes of the Clintons and President Obama and the Congressional Black Caucus (why does that caucus exist, by the way? And

why does the Hispanic Caucus exist?).

Ms. Brown touts that she has a reputation for "delivering" to her constituents, and one could speculate that might have some residual benefit to Baker County. But many of us would prefer a representative in Washington who shares at least a smidgen of our political beliefs.

Ms. Brown does not fit that bill.

Cynics might argue that Corrine Brown (who not surprisingly opposes redrawing of her present district lines) having to pack up and move along the I-10 corridor toward Tallahassee is the best recipe to achieve what others have tried unsuccessfully for years to do — remove the 10-term congresswoman from office.

The Tallahassee judge is correct in ruling that District 5 violates the law, and one wonders why the lawsuit that brought about the decision wasn't filed sooner as to minimize disruption of the electoral process this year.

The fact that the district was drawn as it does doesn't speak well for the legislative team that dreamed it up, and indeed it looks to be a cynical attempt to "isolate" Rep. Brown, but it also begs the questions "why would you do that?"

The corrective measures decided in the coming days by the legislature could well toss Baker County a liberal Democrat as our member of Congress. Depending on the timing of this year's election, we could be stuck with her for a minimum of two years.

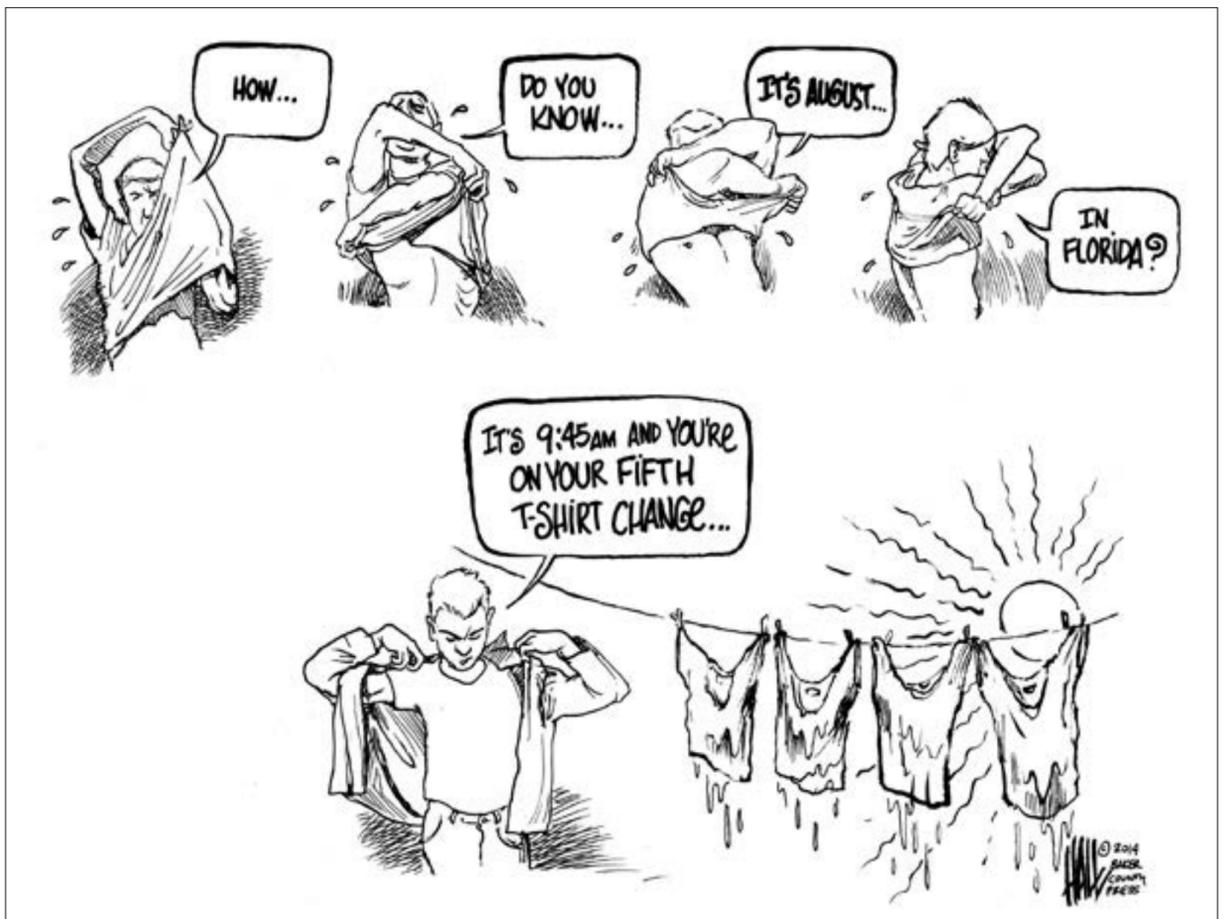
On the other hand, Ms. Brown has Republican opposition in the general election in the form of Glo Smith, a black conservative female whose background and accomplishments far outshine those of the incumbent. Voters along the I-10 corridor should welcome her candidacy if it works out that way.

Correction

An article in July 17 edition of *The Press* erred by stating Markhem Gaskins of Sanderson was arrested for misdemeanor marijuana possession. In fact, police filed a sworn complaint with the State Attorney's Office against Mr. Gaskins alleging that offense for potential prosecution. Formal charges have been filed but Mr. Gaskins was not arrested.

IMPRESSIONS

Jim McGauley



Still swoons over that pink Rambler

Any man will be quick to tell you there are some things he never forgets. One of the most lasting memories is the first car.

Some guys, if they are lucky, get new cars of their choosing. Others get gifts from their parents. For others, it's a hand-me-down from a brother or sister.

All of them, loved or reviled, are remembered vividly.

My first car was a 1962 Rambler Ambassador station wagon. It was not, I assure you, the brand new Dodge Challenger that I had up on my wall and coveted in the pages of *Car and Driver*.

But it was my car. Well, via my grandfather and my dad.

My grandfather was a Nash man the way some people are Catholics or Baptists and when Nash was bought by American Motors he became a Rambler man. He paid cash on the barrel head for his new station wagon.

It was ... so to speak ... a very special car. For one thing, it was years ahead of its time. It had power steering and power brakes when only the most expensive sedans did. That fact becomes very important to me later on.

It had another interesting feature, which Porsche utilized on its cars. The Rambler Ambassador had push-button transmission. Instead of a gear shift you simply pushed up button marked D or R or P, etc. It was very cool.

One of its other standard features was seat belts. This was years before they would be offered in most cars.

It was also ... pink.

That's right, pink.

I'm really not sure what possessed my grandfather, an otherwise very conservative man, to buy a pink car. I guess because he could. Rambler was the only car line offering vehicles in unusual color schemes and my grandfather — ever the practical man — knew that he would never misplace a pink car in a parking lot.

Other than Mary Kay Cosmetics Cadillacs, I don't know that I have ever seen another pink car.

I learned to drive in this car and was pretty fond of it. My grandfather passed it down to my dad when he developed cancer and my dad drove it until it was time for me to drive. It was by then ten years old but in pristine condition.

Unfortunately, I didn't get to drive it as long as I would have liked, because its many innovations wound up saving my life.

One day after school I was sent to pick up my sister from work at Sears. We lived in Lake City at the time and on the way I ran over some debris. I didn't think much of it until I went to push the brakes and they went straight to the floor. The debris had cut my brake line.

I was traveling about 55 mph down Baya Avenue and straight ahead of me was what we locals called *the four-lane*. US 41 intersected Baya Avenue and traffic was stopped at the light as I barreled toward it with no brakes.

I was 18 years old and I swear the first thing that popped into my head was, "What would Joe Mannix do?" Mannix was a very popular detective show on tele-

vision. I loved that show and Mannix drove the coolest 1968 Camaro. There was a car chase every show.

"What would Joe Mannix do?" That's what my mind asked and my 18-year-old reflexes did it, and my 10-year-old station wagon responded.

Instead of slamming into the back of the cars at the intersection I whipped into the parking lot of Rucker Realty Company on the corner of Baya and US 41. Thankfully there were no cars parked there at the time.

I went through a fence, onto the sidewalk and was headed straight for oncoming traffic on US 41. I hauled on the steering wheel and the power steering whipped me around so that I went down a ravine straight for the plate glass window of Rucker Realty.

I will never forget the look on the faces of the people in the office as they saw me coming. Joe Mannix Gerard had one more choice to make. Plate glass window or oak tree?

Easy choice. I slammed into the oak tree at about 50 miles an hour and the seat belt kept me from going through the windshield. My face was bloody from hitting the steering wheel but thanks to all the innovations on my grandfather's car, I survived.

In those days I wasn't even sent to the hospital. I turned off the ignition, got out of the car, talked to the police and that was that. My parents and sister were so shaken up when they got there that I even drove home.

Somewhere in the annals of *The Lake City Reporter* there is a picture of that car 20 feet from the realty office window.

What a great first car.

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD



LIKE US ON
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THE DISCUSSION

County board eyes property tax increase ...

After the Baker County Commission voted 3-2 to tentatively raise the property tax, or millage, rate 14 percent, we turned to Facebook for reactions.

James Clay Rhoden: Time to vote them out! Property values have decreased and therefore doesn't validate an increase! If our city/county government can't budget the \$ as each of us citizens are required to do everyday then they aren't qualified to be in the position that they are in.

Walter Kelly Crews: It is understandable that inflation in

general and other facets of national and state economics will affect our county expenditures and taxation necessities but it appears there are regular incidences of poor financial management by our elected officials.

Janet Rigney: They better pave my road and put in sewers, with water we can drink. I pay too much now for taxes to live on a dirt road that washes out all the time cause the grader doesn't know what he is doing.

Mike Wallace: Only option we have is to vote out everyone that agreed with this hike. I don't understand how they justified a 14% increase with the local economy in the state it is currently in.

Angela Suppa Callahan: I totally support it! My property

value has increased. Florida just experienced record high tourism rates, the economy is improving. I love how so many people make comments and judge others who "get something for nothing," but when it comes time for taxable services, well we shouldn't have to pay for those. I support any effort to make our community a better place! We must pay for goods and services!

Billy Kilgore: Taxing us to death!

Misty Griffiths: Why just property owners? Why not everyone? Why are homeowners bearing the financial burden for everyone? There are more than just homeowners here in Baker County using tax funded resources. Let's cut budgets, sell unnecessary assets, and then if we're still not in the black (as a very last resort) raise a fair tax on all citizens instead of a few. Distribute the burden.

Mary Kiper: Why only property tax when we all use the ser-

vices. Agree vote them out!

Joshua Forth: Time to clean house! Get the clowns who voted for increase in property tax and get them out! Now!

Marcia L. King: That's quite a bit. I'd have to see more detail.

David Cook: I think it's a joke. Are they going to let us use the lights at the ball fields for free or are they still going to charge us twice for it. I think it's a shame we already pay for the lights in our taxes but they want to charge us \$10 an hour to use them for ball practice. So we have to pay for them twice. I think if they want to get, then they should have to give a little as well.

Join the discussion by searching for *The Baker County Press* and liking our Facebook page. We post questions for readers as well as news updates and links to content at bakercountypress.com. You can also find us on Twitter (@[bakercopress](https://twitter.com/bakercopress)) and on YouTube as well.

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Three arrests for suspended license

Three persons driving in the Macclenny area the past week were arrested following traffic stops for having suspended driver's licenses.

A fourth driver was charged with a felony offense after he drove into the parking lot of the Macclenny Moose Lodge.

Deputy John Minkel arrested Virgil Johns, 44, of Glen St. Mary after learning that he was driving a vehicle belonging to neighbor Betty Griffis, and his license was suspended twice for refusing to submit to breath or other tests in drunk driving cases.

The officer was called to the West Lowder club about 7:45 pm on August 3 because Ms. Griffis, who earlier loaned her

2004 Chevrolet to Mr. Johns so he could drive to Sanderson to buy liquor, feared he would not return with it. When he did the deputy was on the Moose property.

In other arrests:

- Deputy Daryl Mobley learned the afternoon of July 29 that Consuelo McCall, 27, of Macclenny was driving a 2003 Chevrolet recklessly in the north city and that her license was suspended in April. She had also been ticketed a week earlier for the same offense.

Dep. Mobley gave chase when Ms. McCall sped through the intersection of US 90 and MLK about 1 pm without stopping, then ran stop signs at Ohio and 7th Aves. She was ticketed for those offenses also.

- The same deputy stopped a 2006 Chevrolet driven by Clarissa Roberson, 27, of Sanderson the afternoon of July 27 after spotting a young child standing in the rear seat.

He learned shortly after that her license had four suspensions and that all four youngsters in the vehicle were unrestrained. Ms. Roberson was also ticketed for not wearing a seat belt.

- Deputy Jacob Satterwhite stopped Ronnie Nipper, 30, of Macclenny the evening of July 28 for having a faulty tail light on his 1999 Chevrolet, and learned his license had eight suspensions.

Harvey reunion

The 46th annual Harvey family reunion will be held on Saturday, August 16 starting at 11 am at the Baker County fairgrounds on Lauramore Rd. north of Macclenny.

Activities for kids will be provided. Everyone welcome.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meetings Mon., Wed. & Fri. at 8 pm
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Call Wanda 904-994-7750

Tentative vote for 14% property tax hike

From page 1

county employees in more than five years.

He said he simply did not know what else could be done to balance the budget without increasing revenue. One alternative is the same one officials have gone to in every budget cycle for the past half a dozen years: tapping into cash reserves.

The county's reserve fund has steadily declined in the past several years from about \$12 million to less than \$7 million today and could be used again to help fill a projected \$1,798,143 budget deficit.

County Manager C.J. Thompson's proposed budget for 2014-15 reflects anticipated expenses totaling \$27,037,785 and only \$25,239,642 in total revenue. However, the figures are based on the current 7.2916 property tax rate.

The proposed rate increase would bring in another \$761,400, which would boost total revenues to \$26 million, narrowing the deficit gap to a little over \$1 million.

When Commissioner James Croft suggested calling for a 10 percent across-the-board budget cut in all county departments and constitutional

offices, Mr. Thompson said that would produce about \$2,062,175.

However, he said there is no more fat that could be cut in the proposed \$7.5 million county operating budget under his supervision.

"I don't have \$750,000," Mr. Thompson said.

But some members of the audience urged commissioners to continue seeking ways to balance the budget without a tax increase and without having to rob the reserves once more.

Ed Barber, a Macclenny resident and business owner, said a tax increase would be detrimental to many businesses barely making ends meet in today's economy.

"I'm concerned that small businesses would struggle to pay higher taxes and survive," Mr. Barber said, adding that county employees and the services they provide are important but that he "can live without animal control and road grading..."

Commissioner James Croft, who has pushed for more creative thinking to solve the budget woes by making government more efficient, said a tax increase is not the way to go about it.

"I think we need to think harder," Mr. Croft said. "I don't know if I want to tell John Q. Public that everything we do is more important than you."

He said many homeowners might not be able to pay a higher tax bill and could end up losing their home as a result, or they might simply choose to leave the county.

"I don't want to fire people or cut services, but I don't want people to leave our county," he said.

Before setting the tentative millage rate commissioners met in a budget workshop at 3 p.m. and accepted an offer from the Baker County Development Corporation, which owns the county jail, that officials said could save the county several hundred thousand dollars in inmate boarding expenses.

The BCDC offer, presented by Sheriff Joey Dobson, will charge the county \$3,671,900 to house local inmates in 2014-15, based on an average daily count of 125 inmates at a daily rate of \$80.48 per inmate.

The offer contains a 3 percent discount for prepayment and a discounted daily rate of \$76.25 per inmate will be charged if the number of local prisoners exceeds 125, the

sheriff said.

"If the (daily) average is 110 we will not charge ya'll for 125 inmates," Sheriff Dobson told the commission. "Should we? Probably. But we're not going to do that."

The agreement stipulates that the county commission will pay up to \$150,000 for inmate medical expenses and the BCDC will be responsible for any additional medical bills. Further, the BCDC will pay for all costs related to transporting inmates to court appearances, medical appointments, housing, visitation, clothing, meals and guarding of inmates if confined off site in a medical facility.

"I think this is the best deal we've had so far," Commissioner Crews said.

Commissioner Anderson agreed, saying, "If we didn't do this we would be another \$300,000 or \$400,000 in the hole."

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Thank you for your vote,

Kenneth J. Roberts

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Political advertisement paid for an approved by Kenneth Roberts, Democrat, for Baker County Clerk of Courts.

EMS privatization idea is rejected



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com Photo by Joel Addington

A handful of the EMS workers on hand for the discussion about seeking bids to privatize their department.

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

County commissioners narrowly rejected a proposal to seek privatization bids to take over the county's Emergency Medical Services operation following a lengthy debate on the issue Tuesday evening.

With 15 to 20 EMS employees in the audience, some of whom spoke against the idea of farming out EMS to private enterprise, commissioners discussed the pros and cons of hiring a private ambulance company to provide the service that presently loses money every year.

Discussion began at 5:45 p.m. and ended at 6:10 p.m. in a 3-2 vote to kill a recommendation to solicit proposals from private companies. At first, it seemed as though no commissioner wanted to make a motion to settle the dispute.

"I will entertain a motion of some sort," Commission Chairman Jimmy Anderson said.

Following a lengthy pause, Commissioner James Croft broke the silence.

"I believe that it (privatization) deserves a look," Commissioner Croft said, suggesting the county at least advertise for proposals to compare with the county's costs to see if any savings could be achieved.

"If it comes back and it can't be done (less expensively) we can tell the public we did everything we could," he said.

At that point, Commissioner Adam Giddens moved to "go forward with the RFP (request for proposal)" and Mr. Croft seconded the motion.

Since Commissioner Gordon Crews moments earlier had spoken favorably about trying privatization of EMS, it appeared as though the measure would pass. Instead, Commissioner Crews joined Commissioners Anderson and Mark Hartley in voting the measure down.

After the meeting, Commissioner Crews said he decided against the idea because he did not believe a private ambulance company could perform the level and quality of services presently being provided by county employees at a lower cost. He noted that the county had been told a private company could save the county \$350,000 to \$500,000 a year.

"I don't think they can do it," Mr. Crews said moments before the vote. "If so, we need to get a five-year contract. If we're

not going to do it don't bring it up again. It keeps coming up back and forth, back and forth."

The last time the issue was discussed a year ago, he said, "it created turmoil in peoples' lives" and it's doing so again now.

Critics said if a private ambulance company took over emergency medical services for the county emphasis would be on transporting patients and making a profit, rather than saving lives at any cost.

"We have responded to over 3,600 calls this year (since October 1, 2013)," said EMS Director David Richardson, "and we've constantly improved transport and EMS. We measure by lives - not dollars."

His top priority, he said, is providing the best emergency medical service possible to ensure that a patient survives an injury or illness when 911 is called, not their financial condition or whether they have health insurance.

"We're not going to send them to jail just because they can't pay their rescue bill," said Mr. Richardson, who started in the county's EMS department 30 years ago.

The proposed budget for EMS in 2014-15 is \$1,513,775, up 6.29 percent from the present budget of \$1,424,194. Something else that has increased is the gap between revenue and expenses.

The deficit in the current EMS budget, which is supplemented by tax dollars in the general fund, is projected to hit about \$488,000 by the end of September. Next year's deficit is projected to grow to \$508,000 despite intensified efforts in the past year to collect delinquent debts owed for EMS services.

"We don't want to put the lives of our citizens in danger, but we have to find a way to save money," Commissioner Giddens said.

Karen Thomas, a resident of Baker County for over 21 years, said hiring a private ambulance company to run EMS is not the

way to do it.

"Don't privatize," Ms. Thomas told commissioners. "A for-profit company will have one eye on the patient and the other on the bottom line."

Robert "Bo" Register told the board that "EMS is a stewardship the county has that transcends dollars." He described the county's rescue units as "rolling emergency rooms that come to your house."

"I'm not sure I would want to stake my life on a profit-loss ratio," Mr. Register said.

Something else the county would need to consider before seeking bids for EMS is how dispatching for emergency medical services would be handled by a private contractor, Sheriff Joey Dobson said.

"We handle dispatching for law enforcement, fire and EMS," he said. "If we go to privatization we don't have that obligation to a private company."

The sheriff also cautioned commissioners against hiring

a contractor for EMS because they could be snookered by a low ball offer initially and hit later with price increases.

"Eventually, they're going to come back to the county and say we can't do it without a supplement," Sheriff Dobson said. He said Columbia County is going through a similar experience right now after hiring a private EMS contractor last year that now is seeking more money.

"Let's find the money to keep our rescue units," the sheriff told commissioners.

The argument that seemed to have carried the most weight with commissioners, however, was an emotional appeal from people who said they would not want to know that their lives were in the hands of a for-profit company if they had to call 911.

"I'm a stroke patient and I'm four months pregnant," said Kim Crawford. "I would worry about response times and how much knowledge and experience they had."

Milt O'Neil, president of the Baker County Veterans Council, also implored commissioners to keep all EMS employees on the county payroll. He said they know the veterans in Baker County and their medical problems and they know all the dirt roads throughout the county and the best routes to take to reach someone's home.

"Many vets have very extensive problems," Mr. O'Neil said. "We have over 1,400 veterans in Baker County."

Greg Gaines, a county emergency medical technician for 15 years, also presented a letter from Dr. Patricia White, emergency room physician at Fraser Hospital, and a petition that he said was signed by 482 Baker County residents, including "427 registered voters," all opposed to privatizing EMS.

Charlie 'ARTIE' BURNETT

Re-ELECT

SCHOOL BOARD District 4



I have lived in Baker County for the past 38 years.

I have made many good friends in this county and love the small town, close knit atmosphere and friendliness of our community.

My forefathers, i.e.: father, grandfather, great-grandfather (all of whom are buried in Cedar Creek Cemetery north of Sanderson) have been a part of this county and community for the past 100 years. I have many extended family members who make this county their home and I cherish the relationship I have with them.

I have attended three churches while living here: Faith Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church and Taylor Church where I have gotten to know a large church family of brothers and sisters in Christ. These brothers and sisters have prayed for, supported and lifted up my wife and I as we raised a son with special needs and I will be eternally grateful.

I feel deeply and passionately for this county/ community and the people who make it up. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to represent this community as a School Board member for the past 4 years. I have worked hard to serve you and live up to the trust you have placed in me.

I look forward to continue serving you as we face the challenges of today and tomorrow. With your vote, you can be assured I will continue to do my best to earn your trust and serve you honorably.

Charlie 'ARTIE' BURNETT

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Each of the candidates running for Clerk of Courts has experience of various kinds and has been happy to show it off over the past weeks, but do they have the experience where it matters most? I am proud to say with 19½ years of continuous experience and having worked in 11 different divisions at the Baker County Clerk of Courts office, I am knowledgeable, the most experienced and the most qualified. I have the 'EXPERIENCE that matters' and 'EXPERIENCE you can trust.'

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Domestic violence arrest Strangled, imprisoned his girlfriend

JON SHUMAKE
jonshu@live.com

A Macclenny man was arrested the early morning of July 30 for multiple domestic violence charges, including strangulation and false imprisonment, after an argument with his live-in girlfriend turned physical when she refused to pack his clothes.

Tamera Courtney told Sergeant James Marker she and boyfriend Jared Griffis, 31, were arguing when he told her he was leaving. After she refused to pack his clothes, he allegedly pushed her down in the kitchen and got on top of her. Ms. Courtney said she scratched Mr. Griffis to get him off of her and then went to the bedroom to get away from him, where the suspect followed her and continued demanding she pack his clothes.

While she was laying in the bed, Mr. Griffis allegedly slapped her across the face with an open hand. Ms. Courtney said she then began throwing his clothes into a basket and then walked outside and threw them in a fire they were burning in the yard. Mr. Griffis then reportedly pushed her back into a railing on the porch, causing her to hit her upper back.

She told the sergeant Mr. Griffis followed her back inside and continued to yell. She said the suspect pushed her against the wall several times while holding her around the neck, which forced her head into the wall causing several holes. She said Mr. Griffis choked her while he held her against the wall and struck her with a closed fist, the sergeant's report states.

Ms. Courtney tried leaving several times but was stopped by the boyfriend until James Wilkerson arrived and the suspect began talking with him. At that point, Ms. Courtney went to a neighbor's to call police.

Priscilla Miller, who was at the residence and saw the argument, gave Sgt. Marker an account that matched Ms. Courtney's version of events.

Mr. Griffis left the scene before the sergeant arrived, but was arrested upon his return around 3:30 am.

In a similar incident, a Macclenny boyfriend and girlfriend were arrested the night of July 29 for domestic battery after they were involved in an altercation over the girlfriend not cleaning the house during the day.

Corporal Christopher Walker responded to 6069 Adams Rd. in reference to the incident where he was met by Theron Parker, 39. Mr. Parker told the officer his girlfriend Janis McFadden, 29, scratched him on the face and neck while the two were arguing. He was at his parents' residence on the same property, but Ms. McFadden was in the

residence they shared together.

The officer then spoke with Ms. McFadden, who said Mr. Parker came home drunk and started the argument with her. After trying to explain herself to her boyfriend, she said Mr. Parker jumped on the bed and got on top of her. Ms. McFadden said she then grabbed him by the throat and arm to get him off of her. Once off the bed, the two continued the physical altercation until he left.

Cpl. Walker was unable to determine an aggressor, so both parties were arrested.

In other recent domestic violence incidents:

- Two Macclenny men were arrested the afternoon of August 3 after an argument over infidelity turned violent and resulted in a car windshield getting shattered.

Jason Kirk, 35, told Deputy Clements Leo that he and his partner Jack Rhoden, 27, got into a physical altercation after he confronted Mr. Rhoden about cheating on him. He said Mr. Rhoden struck him on the back with a mop stick and in the mouth, the deputy's report shows.

Mr. Kirk told the officer he tried leaving and attempted to back his car out of the driveway, but Mr. Rhoden jumped on the hood and kicked the windshield, which caused it to break and made it inoperable. Mr. Rhoden then fled on foot and Mr. Kirk called police.

Dep. Leo made contact with Mr. Rhoden at his mother's employer, where he was giving himself first aid for a cut on his foot. He said the two were arguing and Mr. Kirk slapped him across the face. He admitted to hitting his partner with a mop stick but denied striking him in the mouth.

Mr. Rhoden said he then went outside, where Mr. Kirk tried to hit him with the car. He told the deputy he had to jump on the hood to avoid getting run over. He said he wasn't sure about how the window shattered, but it could have happened when he jumped on the hood, which is when the cut on his foot also may have happened.

- Cherry Padgett, 34, of Macclenny was arrested the night of July 29 for violating a no contact order due to a pending domestic aggravated assault case after she was caught sleeping in a residence the order banned her from.

- Terri Davis, 30, was charged with domestic battery on boyfriend Justin Cooper, 32, of Sanderson at her north Macclenny apartment the evening of August 3.

Mr. Cooper reported the incident at the sheriff's department shortly after it occurred about 6 pm, and told Deputy Chris Walker Ms. Davis became violent during an argument over him kissing another woman while she was in jail recently.

The officer noted injuries to Mr. Cooper's face consistent with being struck with a closed fist.

Arrest after meth lab uncovered at a motel

From page 1

to her boyfriend, who in turn called 9-1-1.

The boyfriend, Justin Thomas of Fernandina Beach, was on the phone with Ms. Cooper when responding Deputy Michael Antonini arrived.



Sandra Cooper

The officer spoke to Mr. Thomas at that time and the boyfriend said Ms. Cooper sent him a photo of a syringe and meth and threatened to overdose.

The suspect would soon tell police she did not want to kill herself and the text was only a ploy to draw her boyfriend to Macclenny, according to Deputy Antonini's account of the incident.

When Mr. Thomas told her he notified police, she said she flushed the drugs, syringe and coffee filters down the toilet, the officer said.

Ms. Cooper explained she got the drugs from a man and woman at the Country Club Lounge two nights prior. Their names were not released by sheriff's investigators.

The trio spent the night "partying," Ms. Cooper said, and she rented the neighboring room in the morning. In the other room, deputies were greeted with a smoky haze and a strong chemical odor.

There they found a bottle with meth residue inside as well as other common meth-making materials like pseudoephedrine, drain cleaner and batteries as well as other evidence, including a prescription

for Sarah Parrish.

Ms. Cooper's bond was set July 29 at \$22,500.



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- One who can work well with others and does so, consistently and willingly.

Allow me to be that choice!

Vote

Jack BAKER III

FOR CLERK OF COURTS

Paid by Jack Baker III, Republican, for Baker County Clerk of Courts.

\$2K in jewelry gone from Glen home

JON SHUMAKE
jonshu@live.com

Police responded to a Glen St. Mary residence August 3 in reference to a theft of about \$2,000 of jewelry that was stolen some time during the previous few days.

Victim Cindy Ott told Corporal Matthew Riegel she discovered the jewelry was stolen while she was getting ready for church. Her husband Thomas first discovered his two 18-carat gold chains were missing from their master bathroom. Mrs. Ott then began taking inventory of her jewelry and found a ring that had a large triangle setting with a cluster of diamonds on it had been sto-

len, too.

She had last seen the items on July 29 and she said workers that had been at their residence could have possibly taken the jewelry. Ms. Ott told the officer three men came to finish up projects under warranty of their new mobile home, two of which were in the master bedroom.

In a similar incident, Corporal Christopher Walker responded a Glen St. Mary residence August 2 in reference to the theft of a motorcycle after the victims noticed it was missing a few days after returning from New York.

Ollie Taylor said she and her husband Thomas returned from the trip July 31 and no-

ticed the Honda motorcycle worth about \$1,000 was missing from a shed. Their son, who was in the shed during their absence, was questioned by police but denied involvement.

In another incident, Deputy Daryl Mobley responded July 29 to a delayed burglary call about an A/C unit that owner Raymond Graham said may have been stolen in the previous two days.

The deputy noticed a window boarded up with a hole in it where the unit once was. Inside the residence, he saw the couch pushed away from the wall suggesting that someone entered the residence, although both the front and rear doors were secure.

In other similar incidents:

- Terri Davis, 30, of Sanderson was arrested the afternoon of August 1 for shoplifting after she was caught trying to take about \$27 in baby items from Walmart. Security witnessed her conceal baby formula and a package of diapers in her purse. She admitted to Deputy Marc Heath she tried taking the items without paying for them.

- Dustin Sheppard, 24, of Sanderson was arrested the evening of August 1 for shoplifting from Walmart after he was caught stealing clothing and surveillance camera footage later showed him getting a refund for a phone speaker he never purchased.

Mr. Sheppard was originally caught trying to steal a hat, shirt and a pair of shoes. He tried to wear the hat and shoes out of the store and hide the shirt, but he was caught by security.

Deputy Justin Yingling said the surveillance video showed Mr. Sheppard selecting the speaker from the electronics section and take it to customer service where he received funds on a gift card.

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Felons had meth inventory

From page 1

probation violation warrants.

Sheriff's investigator Matt Yarborough, who handles drug-related cases, said deputies converged on the trailer on Pleasant Rd. about 10 pm and flushed out both suspects who had apparently been living there after the trailer was vacated by Mr. Griffis' father.

Among the items seized were a baggie with cooked meth, used needles, cold packs, over-the-counter cold medicine containing a key ingredient and several rounds of ammunition, which resulted in additional charges since both suspects are felons.

Mr. Griffis was also charged with using identification belonging to Christopher Stieger, 29, of Miami to purchase the cold medicine at a Publix on Normandy Blvd. in west Jacksonville.

In other recent arrests:

- A traffic stop for speeding in west Macclenny late in the evening of August 2 led to felony and misdemeanor drug possession counts against Ashley Goodin, 25, of Sanderson.

Deputy Justin Yingling said he clocked an eastbound 2014 Dodge being driven by the suspect at 73 mph in a 40 mph zone about 10 pm. She consented to a vehicle search that yielded both Methadone and Hydrocodone pills in a vial in her purse, and a small amount of pot in a cylinder attached to a key chain.

- Michael Scott Crews

Jr., 25, of Glen St. Mary was charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana he produced for Deputy Michael Antonini shortly after a traffic stop at 3:30 am on August 1.

The officer said he stopped the 1999 Nissan driven by Mr. Crews in north Sanderson because of a defective tag light.

- Deputy Jacob Satterwhite arrested Barry Brown,

20, of Macclenny for having a glass pipe and grinder with marijuana residue in his 2010 Hyundai stopped in the south city the evening of July 29 for a seat belt violation.

Passenger Marcus Bennett, 20, of Sanderson was taken into custody for a probation violation stemming from a paraphernalia possession case.

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Senator Marc Rubio & Commissioner Giddens

"Adam Giddens is the qualified candidate who is most capable of managing the tough fiscal issues facing Baker County."

-Senator Aaron Bean

Rep. Janet Adkins & Commissioner Giddens

"Adam's background and experience as a current county commissioner makes him the right choice to continue leading Baker County for another four years."

-Representative Travis Cummings

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County Commissioner District 4

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Adam Giddens, Republican Baker County Commissioner, District 4.

Why Re-Elect Adam Giddens?



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 - 2011: \$3,078.73
 - 2012: \$2,878.02
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- (Source: Baker County Tax Collector)

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- ✓ No increase in EMS, Fire or Garbage fees



THE TRUTH IS...

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Adam Giddens, Republican Baker County Commissioner, District 4.

Brandished pistol; said road rage

A Georgia man with two felony convictions was arrested at midday on August 1 and charged with brandishing a pistol at a fellow motorist on Interstate 10 in what is believed to be a case of road rage.



Gabriel Ahmed

It marked the second such incident on the interstate in less than two weeks.

Sheriff's investigator Matt Riegel said deputies converged on a green 2005 Ford Taurus based on a description called in by Kareen Gantt, 47, of Orange Park. She reported the driver of the Taurus pulled alongside her but was unable to pass due to heavy traffic on the eastbound lanes between Sanderson and Glen St. Mary.

The man, later identified as Gabriel Ahmed, 30, of McDonough, GA, waved "a black item" in her direction, and when he did pass her Ms. Gantt said he waved a handgun out the driver's side window.

The sequence, she noted in a written statement, left her "shocked and shaken up."

Officers found two loaded handguns in the Taurus, one in the console between the front seats and a second one in the glove box.

The vehicle was also occupied by Stacy Ahmed, 36, of the same address, and in the rear seat were three girls ages 12 through 16. Ms. Ahmed told Investigator Matt Yarbrough she was sleeping at the time and saw nothing.

Deputies soon learned that Mr. Ahmed had two felony convictions in Georgia, and he was booked at county jail for aggravated assault and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

Police from several agencies searched unsuccessfully on July 21 for two Hispanic men after a Glen St. Mary man said one of them shot at his vehicle as he exited westbound at CR 125.

They had earlier cut in front of his vehicle in heavy traffic.

In other recent arrests:

- Wayne Jefferson, 32, of Glen St. Mary was charged with battery on Teresa Anderson, 58, and a 16-year-old female at a residence in Dixie Trailer Park in south Macclenny about midnight on July 29.

Ms. Anderson told Deputy Chris Walker that Mr. Jefferson came to the address and she allowed him a limited time to speak to the teen. When she then told him to leave, he allegedly attacked the girl and then her before walking off.

The suspect was taken into custody walking east from the scene.

- A battery complaint was filed on July 28 by a 31-year-old male patient at Northeast Florida State Hospital claiming he was attacked in a dining room by a fellow male patient, 31, who repeatedly struck him after kicking over a table.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 101.5612 THE LOGIC AND ACCURACY CERTIFICATION BOARD WILL CONDUCT THE PRE LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST OF THE AUTOMATIC COUNTING EQUIPMENT FOR EARLY VOTING AND FOR THE EQUIPMENT GOING TO THE POLLS WILL BE AUGUST 13, 2014 AT 1:00PM. THE TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR THE AUGUST 26, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION. THE TEST WILL BE HELD AT THE BAKER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE, 32 N 5TH STREET, MACCLENNY, FLORIDA.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 102.141 OF THE FLORIDA LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE BAKER COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD SHALL MEET AUGUST 15, 2014 AT 10:30 AM IN THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE TO START PUBLICLY CANVASSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS. THE CANVASSING BOARD WILL MEET AGAIN ON AUGUST 20, 2014 AT 3 PM, AUGUST 25, 2014 AT 2 PM AND THEN ON AUGUST 26, 2014 AT 3PM AND 6PM UNTIL WE FINISH CANVASSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

NITA D. CRAWFORD, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Two charged with drug-related DUIs

Two motorists were arrested for driving under the influence of drugs the past week, one of them after he was involved in an accident on Interstate 10 between Macclenny and Glen St. Mary.

Trooper J.W. Barry of the Florida Highway Patrol said Ryan Mott, 31, of Starke appeared to be high or drunk when encountered following the accident about 5 pm on July 29. The officer noted Mr. Mott's eyes were dilated, and he admitted to an addiction to the prescription pain killer Loratab.

The driver also said he believed he was on US 301 en route to home at the time, and directed the trooper to a vial of methadone in his 2013 Volkswagen he said was prescribed to him to fight the addiction.

He submitted to a urine test,

as did Timothy Carter Sr., 29, of Macclenny after his 2005 Lincoln SUV was stopped by Deputy Jacob Satterwhite in the north city about 5 pm on August 3.

The officer was responding to a report of a vehicle swerving out of its lane in south Macclenny, and he observed the SUV make an abrupt turn into a convenience store on North 6th St.

Mr. Carter had slurred speech and was unsteady on his feet, according to Dep. Satterwhite, and he failed field sobriety testing. The officer found a package of prescription-only Fentanyl pain relief patches inside the vehicle, and Mr. Carter was also wearing a patch. He also reportedly admitted to smoking marijuana earlier that day.

He was taken to Fraser

Hospital due to the level of intoxication, and later at county jail booked for DUI and possession of medication without a prescription.

In other traffic-related incidents:

- Robert Hinson, 72, of Glen St. Mary was charged with reckless driving and failure to register his 1998 BMW after he was stopped about 5:30 pm on July 30 on Arnold Rhoden Rd. south of Sanderson.

Deputy Christopher Clutter said he initiated the stop after noting the BMW drifting into the oncoming lane, and noted it took a half-mile after he illuminated emergency lights before Mr. Hinson stopped.

He had a Tennessee license and claimed he was rejected for a Florida license because of vision problems. He also said he recently purchased the car

and neglected to register it.

- Kaitlin Sumner, 22, of Lake City was charged with a similar offense related to the 1995 Honda she was driving about noon of July 29 when she was stopped on South 6th in Macclenny by Sgt. Shawn Bishara.

The officer stopped her because the vehicle had no license tag. Ms. Sumner claimed she recently purchased it and failed also to have it insured.

Intoxicated duo arrested for harassing customers at store

JON SHUMAKE
jonshu@live.com

Two Glen St. Mary men were arrested the evening of July 30 for disorderly intoxication after police were called due to the suspects harassing customers at the Kangaroo Store on East Macclenny Avenue.

Deputy Trey McCullough responded to the incident and was met at the scene by Corporal Koty Crews. The deputy found William Curran, 50, lying on his back near the store's trash can with several beer cans in his possession.

While exiting his patrol car, Dep. McCullough noticed Timothy Grantham, 48, flee the scene. He chased after the suspect while yelling commands to stop, but Mr. Grantham ignored them. Cpl. Crews gave chase and was able to handcuff the suspect and return him to the scene.

Once back at the gas station, Mr. Curran tried to stand up but fell back to the ground. Dep. McCullough informed him it was illegal to drink alcohol in the parking lot, and Mr. Curran cursed at him several times. After the deputy warned Mr. Curran to lower his voice, Mr. Grantham also tried get-

ting him to calm down.

Dep. McCullough then spoke with the employee, who said the two suspects were in the parking lot drinking beer when she arrived at work around 4 that afternoon. She then witnessed them harass customers by "begging for money" that made the customers feel uneasy.

She then asked the suspects to leave the premises, but Mr. Curran cursed at her while telling her to mind her own business.

In addition to the disorderly intoxication charges, Mr. Grantham was also charged with resisting an officer without violence and both men were trespassed from the store.

In another incident, a Macclenny woman was arrested in the early morning of August 1 for trespassing after she was caught in a camper in the backyard of a residence after she had previously been issued a trespass warning for the property.

Cpl. Crews learned that complainant Nancy Martin had called about Susan Green, 50, trespassing on her property despite the warning. The corporal located Ms. Green with Ms. Martin's brother, Terry,

who said he did not invite the suspect to the property and had asked her to leave several times. Ms. Green admitted to being told not to return to the residence and was arrested.

In a similar incident, Lisa Harris, 22, of Macclenny was arrested for trespassing after police were called to 9072 Pine Oaks Circle in reference to a disturbance in progress.

Club will host coffee

The GFWC Woman's Club of Macclenny is inviting all ladies in the community to its opening coffee at the club house, 144 S. 5th St., in Macclenny on August 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. The volunteer group organizes events and fund raisers for a number of charitable causes in the community and beyond throughout the year before taking the summer off. The coffee represents the start of a new year for the club.

Seeks supplies for local schools

A month-long "give back to school" drive for school supplies was launched recently to benefit children at the Episcopal Children's Services on South 6th St. in Macclenny.

The drive is sponsored by the local office of Advance America. For more details, contact Christie Passmore at 259-2042.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meetings Mon., Wed. & Fri.
at 8 pm
8981 S. SR 228 Macc.

FREE EVENT! **THIS IS A TOBACCO-FREE & ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT!** **BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET!** **SNACKS ON SALE!**

Back To School Bash

AUGUST 15TH

MACCLENNY MEMORIAL PARK (Duck Pond)

"Street Party" Game Truck 6:30-8:30 pm
Movie in the Park 8:30 pm
In the event of rain the movie will be rescheduled to a later date.

The event will promote healthy recreational activities and habits for youth & families, while encouraging them to spend quality time together.

Sponsored by the Baker County Health Department's Abstinence Program in collaboration with the City of Macclenny.

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CIRCUIT COURT

Drug dealer and sex offender gets 15 years

A convicted drug dealer and sex offender was sent back to prison on July 29 for 15 years after he admitted in circuit court to violating terms of his probation, including removal of an electronic monitoring device from his leg.

Antonio Robins, 24, will get credit for 1625 days he has been in both prison and jail before he was released from the state prison system in August of last year. Court records show the defendant was living in Lake City at the time of the



Antonio Robins

violations that also included changing residences without notifying his probation officer.

Mr. Robins' criminal record in Baker County includes convictions for lewd assault on a 14-year-old girl in August of 2008 and several cases for sale of drugs within 1000 feet of a school. At the time of his most recent arrest, he was serving a five-year drug offender probation that took effect when he was released from Franklin Correctional Institution.

In other sentencings by Judge Mark Moseley that day:

- Ex-corrections officer Timothy Sweat was given five years in prison followed by two years on drug offender probation after pleading no contest to trafficking in illegal drugs and bringing drugs and cell phones into Baker Correctional.



Timothy Sweat

Court records show that Mr. Sweat, 47, of Glen St. Mary was arrested in December of last year shortly after investigators in the Department of Corrections caught him with a

package that had been mailed to him at the Sanderson post office.

Inside the package were a cell phone and 36 Hydrocodone pills that were intended for BCI inmates. Mr. Sweat, according to the investigators, admitted he delivered up to five cell phones and both synthetic and real marijuana since September, 2013 in a pact with an inmate, who arranged for their delivery via the defendant's post office box.

DOC had been tipped off to the conspiracy by an inmate who earlier was caught with a cell phone banned inside the prison.

The judge also fined Mr. Sweat \$50,000.

- Christopher Combs, 42, of Sanderson will be in prison 13 months after pleading to twin counts of sale and possession of opiates and other drugs from his residence on Richardson Rd.

Sheriff's investigators set up the sales using confidential informants in October and November, 2013. The defendant sold morphine in one instance and Oxycodone in the

We're always looking for news-from you

If you got news, especially good news, we want to hear about it.

The Press monitors official records and regularly scheduled events, but we rely on you, the reader, to inform us about what's happening in your neighborhood, whether it's central Macclenny near us, or in some of the far-flung reaches of Baker County. When Baker County residents are making waves around the country or the globe, we'd like to shine a light on them, too.

That mission trip that was especially challenging, traveling sports teams, the tales of good deeds that should not go unnoticed, we want to know

Oldcastle exits mediation

From page 1

"At that point they said they weren't sure if they wanted to abandon it, but then a year or two later, maybe 18 months ago, they decided to do it," he said. "They've been pretty persistent."

In correspondence to the county dated October 8, 2013, DuPont's environmental science consultant Daniel LeJuene the firm Kleinfelder contended there are redundancies with the DRI requirements and other government permits.

"Information was provided ... that demonstrates how each special condition of the DRI has been satisfied, will be satisfied through another state or federal permit, or is no longer needed," he wrote about previous meetings with local officials.

Mr. Preston estimated his last contact with DuPont about the DRI agreement took place within the last 90 days.

When the request to rescind the agreement was made, working through the concept was "a little perplexing," Mr. Preston said, because DuPont and the county had extended the DRI agreement multiple times as the company bought more land to mine.

The original agreement was approved in the 1980s and the last extension was through 2018.

Mr. Preston said the state law changes in 2011 not only exempted new mines from the DRI review process, but also permitted existing mines to abandon their DRI agreements with the approval of the municipal governments that are a party to the agreements.

Oldcastle officials did not respond to requests for comment on the company's plans going forward, but correspondence from the company during the mediation process show Oldcastle did not substantially alter its mining plan. County officials have said that Oldcastle's settlement offers were essentially the same as its original proposal.

The company's correspondence, from April of this year,

reiterates many of the arguments Oldcastle has used in the past, but also addresses three issues of concern identified by the county as part of mediation proceedings.

First was a concern that mining in the area south of the interstate off SR 228 would not be consistent with the county's "Urban Growth Boundary," which encompasses more than 120 square miles stretching from Sanderson to Macclenny and from Tim Crews Road south to Mud Lake Road. The county was also worried the mining proposal could harm property values in the vicinity.

The proposed mining site is located inside the Urban Growth Boundary, where growth and development is encouraged, said county planning director Ed Preston, who recommended approval of the project when it came before commissioners last summer. Development outside the boundary, meanwhile, is generally discouraged, he said, to preserve the area's rural character.

Oldcastle argued mining was, in fact, compatible with the boundary because the county's Comprehensive Plan, which incorporates the boundary, doesn't explicitly address whether mining is appropriate inside or outside the boundary. Rather, the company contended, the property's agriculture zoning and land use designation should determine the appropriateness of mining. Such a use is permitted in agriculture zoning districts with an approved special exception from the county commission.

With regard to negative impacts on surrounding proper-

ties, the company pointed to its intention to install a water main from the City of Macclenny to the project site and the potential for economic development along the route that may follow the utility expansion.

The second issue the county identified related to ground water quality. It argued Oldcastle's plan to use treated wastewater from the City of Macclenny to form the lakes could adversely affect the water quality in residential wells.

Oldcastle countered that the nearest well was 2.5 miles from the project site and groundwater flows away from the well. It also noted that its experts testified to the county that mining would not harm groundwater.

Lastly, the county had an issue regarding the subject property's potential to be bought by the state's land conservation program, known as Florida Forever. Oldcastle argued that today the property is "private land for private use," and any future conservation efforts are not relevant to mining proposal.

The communications from April of this year show that Oldcastle agreed to ensuring the lakes, after mining was finished, met state environmental standards and the land and lakes would be donated to the City of Macclenny, or rezoned to conservation land if the city didn't want the property.

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Bennett4Baker.com **JAMES BENNETT**
 for BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION DIST. 4
To the citizens of Baker County,
 Over the last 6 weeks, I've provided information related to my background, my professional experience, ideas to help our small businesses, the need for smart growth, my concerns regarding balancing our budget, and the need to bring jobs to our county. During this period, I've been reviewing the information provided by my opponent and offer these observations:
 My opponent has **SUPPORTED** a number of items. However, there are **NO** items identified that my opponent has **INITIATED** and **IMPLEMENTED!** Do you want a commissioner that simply supports others ideas or do you want a commissioner that can lead and implement?
 My opponent has indicated he has improved core county services by voting for the "Soon-to-be constructed Baker County Transportation Center." However, my opponent's **only role was to vote to accept a \$2.1M grant** from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) administered from MY office at FDOT! This action was taken at the July 5, 2011 board meeting. **My opponent has had no further involvement in the project.** My office prepared and executed the funding agreement. Additionally, I served on the committee to review and select the design firm for the project. **My opponent has not been involved.** You decide if this representation is appropriate.
 My opponent has indicated he "Serves on the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council" to represent Baker County. However, a review of the minutes from the meetings since January 2011 show that my opponent missed 5 of the 12 meeting in 2011, missed 5 of the 12 meeting in 2012, missed 6 of the 9 meeting in 2013 and has missed 4 of the 5 meetings held this year (up to June 2014). **This means my opponent has missed 20 of the last 38 meetings, which means he missed more than half of the meetings.** Therefore, I ask you "Are you being represented?"
 You, the citizens of Baker County, deserve a commissioner that can and will **LEAD** initiatives, present **ACCURATE** information, and **REPRESENT** our county on a consistent basis. I am committed to serving the citizens of Baker County as your next County Commissioner for District 4. Your vote and support are greatly appreciated!
 Respectfully,

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Important ELECTION Information to Help You Prepare

 With the 2014 Election cycle just around the corner, I'd like to offer a few last minute reminders to Baker County voters. In order to make your voting experience a pleasant and smooth process there are a few things you as a voter can do to prepare.
 Help us do our job better by ensuring that your voter registration is up-to-date. The more accurate our file, the better able we are to serve the voters of Baker County. Voter registration address changes can be done by telephone, on-line, or written notification. Failure to update your address prior to Election Day could result in delays at the polls. If you have not voted since the last gubernatorial election, you should check your voter registration status on-line, www.bakerelections.com, or call our office 904-259-6339. Do not wait until Election Day to find out if you are registered and if your registration is in good standing!
Nita D. Crawford, Supervisor of Elections



'Pythons in the Park' last Saturday

Helen Gerardo and son Jackson of Glen St. Mary can't be counted among the "snake squeamish" as they stepped forward to get up close to this python during the Wild Wonders Animal Show staged at Heritage Park's covered pavilion on August 2. The event hosted by Michael Rossi (left) featured a traveling menagerie of exotic and not-so-exotic creatures that also included bearded dragons, tortoises, a baby alligator — all in an interactive format enjoyed by the mostly young crowd. The show was brought here by park director Michelle Hodges in the ongoing effort to boost attendance at the museum-themed park off Lowder St. in west Macclenny. It coincided with the monthly farmers market on the grounds.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ACTION

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MESSAGE

IN RE: The license to practice Massage

Carlos I. Victoria, LMT
14435 North State Road 121
Macclenny, Florida 32063
and
113 N. Churchhill Drive
St Augustine, Florida 32086

CASE NO.: 2013-16131
LICENSE NO.: MA46568

The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Cecile Dale Sykes, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #065, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 245-4444.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by September 17, 2014, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Massage in an informal proceeding.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4444, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

8/7-28c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 2013-CA-000108-XXXX-XX

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DAWN SHEPHERD A/K/A DAWN N. SHEPHERD; LARRY SHEPHERD A/K/A LARRY H. SHEPHERD; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated June 30, 2014, and entered in Case No. 2013-CA-000108-XXXX-XX, of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is Plaintiff and DAWN SHEPHERD A/K/A DAWN N. SHEPHERD; LARRY SHEPHERD A/K/A LARRY H. SHEPHERD; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION, are defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the East Door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of August, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 27 OF GADSDEN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE(S) 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH A 1992 CHANDLER MOBILE HOME ID#S GAFLN05A19083CW AND GAFLN05B19083CW WHICH IS PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE AFORESAID REAL PROPERTY AND INCORPORATED THEREIN.

a/k/a 6561 S STATE ROAD 121, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

Dated this 1st day of August, 2014.

AL FRASER
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

By: Tabitha Addison
As Deputy Clerk

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.

Submitted by:
Heller & Zion, L.L.P.,
1428 Brickell Avenue, Suite 700,
Miami, FL 33131.
Telephone: (305) 373-8001, Facsimile:
(305) 373-8030; mail@hellerzion.com

8/7-14c

Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery Inc.
7611 West Mt. Vernon St.
Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction on August 22, 2014 at 10 am at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery 7611 West Mt. Vernon St., Glen St. Mary, FL 32040:

2007 Ford Fusion
Vin# 3FAHP06Z27R101383

8/7c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2014-CP-000005

In Re: The Estate of

LOVEY AUDREY CLARDY, Deceased.

AMENDED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of LOVEY AUDREY CLARDY, deceased, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of this first publication of this Notice is July 31, 2014.

Attorney for Personal Representative

R. R. Crabtree, Esquire #0599859
Crabtree Law Group, P.A.
8777 San Jose Blvd., Bldg. A, #200
Jacksonville, FL 32217
(904) 732-9701
(904) 732-9702(facsimile)

Personal Representative

L. Gale Lamb
3723 River Hall Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32217
7/31-8/7c

Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc.
10510 Duval Lane
Macclenny, FL 32063

Notice of Public Sale: Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on August 29, 2014, 12:00 pm at 10510 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

2001 Buick
Vin# 264WS52J511253484
2000 Nissan
Vin# JN8AR07S9YW423934

8/7c

Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc.
10510 Duval Lane
Macclenny, FL 32063

Notice of Public Sale: Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on September 5, 2014, 12:00 pm at 10510 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

1997 Honda
Vin# 1HGCD7269VA031391
1995 Honda
Vin# JHMEG8541SS032554

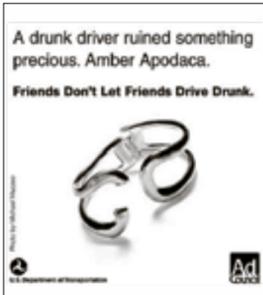
8/7c

A, R&R, Inc.
11837 N SR 121
Macclenny, FL 32063

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction on August 22, 2014 at 10 am at A, R&R, Inc. 11837 N SR 121, Macclenny, FL 32063:

2003 Pontiac Grand Prix
Vin# 1G2WP52KX3F158384

8/7c



Happy 10th
birthday,
Jesslyn Wallstedt!

Happy 50th
anniversary,
Mom and Dad!

We love you,
Brian, Michelle, Jacob, & Donald

Baker County PreK/Kindergarten

Pre-K Programs 2014-2015

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED!

Call 259-3014 to schedule your registration appointment

FULL DAY

Who qualifies: Every 4 year old living in Baker County. (4 on or before Sept. 1, 2014)

Location: Baker County Pre-K/K Center

Transportation: Bus transportation provided to and from school.

Hours: Full school day (8:30-3:00) Our Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP) is also available for an additional fee.

Fees: \$68.10/week >>> Full and reduced prices available <<< (Sliding scale fee reduction available through Episcopal Children's Services to those who qualify through family size and income. Employment and income verification required.) * Proof of employment or full time student status (if applying for a reduced rate)

Meals provided: Breakfast and lunch are available through the school cafeteria for purchase (free and reduced lunch applications are available for those who qualify).

Required Documents:

- * Original birth certificate
- * Photo ID
- * Proof of custody if not the birth parent
- * Proof of residency (must be physical address)
- * Current shot record
- * Proof of employment or full time student status (if applying for a reduced rate)
- * Current physical

COUNTY COURT

Dispositions from July 30th

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on July 30:

- Brian Lee Adams, attaching unassigned license tag; six-month probation, GBB (Give Back to Baker community service).
- Tammy Lee Combs, driving on a suspended license and leaving the scene of an accident; ten days in jail.
- Mitchell Conner Jr., no valid driver's license; six-month probation, GBB and anger management class.
- Michael Anthony Gray, petty theft; 82 days in jail.
- Randall Hay, no valid driver's license; six-month probation, GBB.
- Justin Johns, driving on a suspended license; six-month probation, license school.
- Patrick Odell Mobley, driving on a suspended license and attaching unassigned license tag; six-month probation, license school.
- James Newmans Jr., driving on a suspended license; six-month probation, license school and obtain valid license.
- Michael Prevatt, disorderly conduct; court costs.
- Randolph Rain, marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession; 12-month probation, all DUI sanctions, \$500 fine.
- George Schlarbaum, possession of drug paraphernalia; 20 days in jail, 12-month probation, GBB, \$500 fine, attend narcotics and alcohol addiction groups.
- Vicky Singleton, DUI and driving on a suspended license; two days in jail, six-month probation, all DUI sanctions and \$500 fine.
- Leslie Ann Starling; trespass and petty theft; 60 days in jail, 12-month probation, petty theft class, hold sign in front of Walmart.
- Cerissa Yeomans, driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Christopher Cole, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Ryan Dow, violation of probation for DUI; 189 days in jail, probation reinstated.
- Jared Fama, violation of probation for loitering; 66 days in jail, terminate probation.
- James Fletcher, violation of probation for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia; 15 days in jail and attach GPS system.
- Bradley Flick, violation of probation for petty theft; 41 days in jail, terminate probation.
- James Howard, driving on

a suspended license; 17 days in jail.

- Eric Johnson, violation of probation for driving on a suspended license; 44 days in jail.
- Christina Jones, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- William Mash, violation of probation for driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Joseph Parish, violation of probation for petty theft; 50 days in jail, terminate probation.
- Joseph Reed, disorderly conduct, domestic battery and possession of marijuana; 55 days in jail.
- Michael Regar, violation of probation for DUI; 74 days in jail, terminate probation.
- Tatum Rogers, violation of probation for driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Nelson Ruise, violation of probation for possession of drug paraphernalia; 113 days in jail, terminate probation.
- Mikeya Washington, violation of probation for battery; 44 days in jail, terminate probation.
- Joshua Yarbrough, violation of probation for petty theft and possession of drug paraphernalia; 90 days in jail, terminate probation.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings Tuesday & Thursday
at 6:45 - 7:45 pm
Baker County Health Department

NEWS PHOTOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH EASY ONLINE PURCHASE!

Go to www.bakercountypress.com

Elect **Sally REGISTER**
for Clerk of Courts
HONEST | DEPENDABLE | EXPERIENCED

Education:
Bachelor's of Science in Education from Florida State College of Jacksonville (Magna Cum Laude)
Associate of Arts from Florida Gateway (Magna Cum Laude)
St. Leo's University-Business Management Classes

Experience/Career:
27 Years Financial Experience/Customer Service with TD Bank and former Citizens Bank of Macclenny
10 Years Customer Service Experience with NEFCOM
37 Plus years customer service work experience in Baker County

Paid & approved by Sally Register, Baker County Clerk of Courts

BATON TWIRLING!

Come experience the fun and excitement of baton twirling from the very best!

REGISTRATION AND TWIRLING BEGINS THURS., SEPT. 4TH AT KELLER INTERMEDIATE GYMNASIUM, 4:30 PM

The all-American Twirling Academy includes Baker County Middle/High School instructor Amanda Filosi and UF's Gatorette instructor June Stoeber among others!

* First time beginners through advanced *
* Ages 4 through High School *

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By Jacksonville businessmen who live here

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Two local businessmen — a real estate developer and payroll company owner — have entered the fray in the upcoming primary election.

Macclenny resident Mark Broughton, the owner of Jacksonville-based Paperless Payroll who is also embarking a real estate project, a zip line park in Sanderson, donated \$1000 to the campaign of James G. Bennett, a former manager for the Florida Department of Transportation who resigned the post to run for the District 4 county commission seat held by Adam Giddens, recently filed campaign finance reports show.

Mr. Giddens, a first-term commissioner and the chief financial officer of his family's security company, drew \$1000 from Glen St. Mary's Chris Gazes, who owns GF Florida, a commercial and residential real estate investment and development company, according to the reports, which reflect campaign contributions and expenditures through July 25.

Mr. Gazes was appointed this year to the board of directors of the Baker County Development Commission, which owns industrial land at the east and west ends of the county. He also serves on the county's Code Enforcement Board.

In addition, Mr. Giddens received contributions from Charles Wilson, a Jacksonville accountant, for \$500, Giddens Security Corporation for \$1000, a retiree from Live Oak Gwendolyn Horn Pra for \$250 and Macclenny retiree Charles J. Pracher for \$100.

Mr. Bennett loaned his campaign another \$2000 last month and a \$100 check was written by retiree Marcus Rhoden of Macclenny. The boost helped him keep a sizable funding lead over Mr. Giddens. The gap in contributions stood at \$5,400 as of July 25.

It's the Giddens campaign that had more money left in the bank, however, with \$2325 compared to \$1839 for the Bennett campaign, which has outspent his opponent by nearly \$6000.

The 14 candidates running for four county positions in this year's election together have spent more than \$74,000 on their campaigns as total contributions rose from about \$50,000 in early July to \$86,535 by July 25. And with about a month to go until the August 26 primary, the candidates retained \$12,243 in their campaign accounts.

Clerk of Courts

Two candidates vying to be

the Republican in the Clerk of Courts race, Robert C. "Chuck" Brannan III and Jack "Jackie" A. Baker III, have raised and spent considerable sums.

Mr. Brannan, a former sheriff's investigator and program manager for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, posted \$13,360 in contributions through late July, including a \$1000 loan from his personal finances.

Other recent contributors to Mr. Brannan's campaign came from Lake City retiree Donald R. Kennedy for \$500, Tampa retiree Sandra L. Loughrie, who helps run a religious nonprofit, Florida Family Association, for \$300, Fidela A. Papel, a retiree and owner of Asian food and gift retailer in Jacksonville, for \$200, and real estate developer Thomas Rhoden of Glen St. Mary for \$30.

He's had \$13,360 in campaign cash to spend since qualifying with \$1839 left at the end of the last reporting period.

Mr. Baker, a loan officer for Country Federal Credit Union, has raised \$9,100 in all and had slightly more in the bank — \$2546 — as of July 25.

Mr. Baker's campaign finance filings show his campaign brought in \$6410 in contributions during a 10-day period in mid-July, though \$910 of the sum were in-kind contributions of sign materials and food.

Making monetary donations to his campaign were James Mel Bessinger Jr., an attorney for Northeast Florida State Hospital and Macclenny resident, for \$500, his father and Macclenny insurance agent Jack A. Baker Jr., for \$1000, property management company Lee & Baker Properties, Inc., which is part-owned by his father, for \$1000, Christopher Conner, a NEFSH maintenance worker from Macclenny, for \$200, and NEFCOM IT employee RJ Jenks of Glen St. Mary for \$200.

In the six-way primary race for the Democrat nominee for the clerk post, the candidates have raised and spent smaller amounts of money than their GOP counterparts.

Macclenny's Sherri Dugger, one of three deputy clerks vying for the nomination, had the most left in her campaign account as of July 25, \$507, but fellow deputy clerk Stacie Harvey was not far behind with \$469. James Harvill of Macclenny, president of R & B Automotive, loaned Mrs. Harvey's campaign \$600 on July 15. Mrs. Dugger loaned her campaign \$225 the day before.

The third clerk in the field is Julie Combs of Sanderson, a former county commissioner.

She donated \$1400 to her campaign last month. She had \$103 left in her campaign account as of July 25.

Among the non-deputy clerk candidates is fencing company owner and former sheriff's deputy Kenneth Roberts. He had raised the third highest sum, \$5280, among all the clerk candidates with just \$37 going unspent through the last reporting period. Among his contributors were retiree Curtis Tharpe for \$100, registered nurse Heather Lewis for \$400, and correctional officer Kenneth J. Roberts II for \$200, all of Macclenny.

Rounding out the Democrat field is Sally Register, who works for TD Bank in Macclenny. She had \$154 unspent by her campaign, which benefited from a \$500 loan from rancher Terrell Hamp Register of Sanderson and a \$250 loan from herself.

School board

Former school superintendent and retiree Paula T. Barton of Macclenny continues to outspend her opponent, DeAnna Rewis-McDuffie, for the District 3 school board spot. She's spent more than \$11,500 since qualifying compared to just under \$3000 for Ms. Rewis-McDuffie, who was tapped by Mr. Broughton to manage the coming zip line park in Sanderson.

Ms. Barton has self-funded her campaign, including two \$1000 donations last month.

Ms. Rewis-McDuffie gave her own campaign a \$1300 boost in July in addition to the \$100 donation her effort received from Suzanne Rhoden of Macclenny, who works in sales. She had \$170 left in her campaign account, compared to \$1626 for the opposition, as of July 25.

In the school board's District 4 race, Duval County Schools teacher Paul Scammacca had the most cash, \$328, with about 30 days left to campaign. His opponents, first-term incumbent Charlie "Artie" Burnett of Glen St. Mary and John "Jody" Anderson, a roofing contractor from Glen, had \$262 and \$39, respectively. Raising and spending the most in the race, more than \$2000, was Mr. Burnett's campaign, however.

All three candidates for District 4 have largely self-funded their campaigns as well.



.....
**Looky, looky,
pretty nifty,
my baby sister
is turning 50!!**
.....

Macclenny Church of God is **giving away 150 book bags**

filled with supplies
August 9 | 11am-1pm



There will be **FOOD, MUSIC, & FREE BOOK BAGS!**

*
First come, first serve.
Student must be present.
*

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INFANTS

We are opening a **NEW Infant Room** with new equipment & bedding

TODDLERS

New State Approved Curriculum

PRE-K (VPK)

2012-2013 Top Rated in Scores (State Approved Curriculum)

.....
NEW ~ NEW ~ NEW ~ NEW ~ NEW ~ NEW
.....

We are pleased to announce we are opening a new

1/2 Day Pre-School Program
for 2 1/2 to 4 year olds*

*must be potty trained and not VPK eligible

3 Days a Week • 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
(Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Includes Breakfast & Lunch

Cost: \$55 a week with a \$30 registration fee (each school year)

Our center offers the following:

- Hot nutritious meals (USDA program) | Accepts Episcopal vouchers
- Security cameras in every room | VPK Program | Large Playground
- State approved curriculum in every classroom | Fully equipped classrooms
- CPR & First Aid Certified | Well-trained staff

Macclenny Moose Lodge | August Events

FRIDAY, 8TH "Albert" One Man Band | 8PM-Midnight

SATURDAY, 23RD Community yard sale; \$10 for booth
Call Annette Barton @ 626-3173 to reserve your booth

SATURDAY, 30TH Dirty River Band | 9PM-1AM
Steak Night | 6-8PM

SMOKE FREE every 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month	EVERY SUNDAY Karaoke 6-10pm	EVERY MONDAY Pool tournaments	EVERY TUESDAY Bar bingo
	EVERY WEDNESDAY Ricky Harvey 6-8pm Karaoke 8-10pm	EVERY THURSDAY Dart tournaments Bar bingo	EVERY FRI. & SAT. Karaoke 8PM-12AM (when band not listed)

NOTICE: The Loyal Order of Moose is a private organization. All activities and events referred to are available to members in good standing and their qualified guests only.

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to an application submitted by James Johnston of Shutts and Bowen LLP on behalf of Verizon Wireless, and as agent for property owner Patrick Mobley to be granted a Special Use to locate a communication tower on property located on the east side of CR 121 just south of Steele Bridge Road (13937 SR 121 North) in Baker County, FL. The Baker County Board of Commissioners will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, 55 North Third St., Macclenny, FL. All interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the Special Use request. The request is to be granted a Special Use in accordance to the Baker County Land Development Regulations per Baker County Land Development Regulations Section 3.06.24 Special Use Permit Required. Written comments for or against the Special Use may be sent to Baker County Planning Department, 360 E Shuey Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to (904)259-5057. Copies of the Special Use may be inspected by any member of the public in the Planning Department, address stated above. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at (904) 259-5123 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORT PAULA T. BARTON'S CANDIDACY FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3

PAULA

Absolutely the right choice for our children!

Vote PAULA for School Board Member District 3

- ✓ "Qualifications and educational experience are needed to serve as a School Board Member. Paula is the candidate that has both. She will always do what she believes is best for our children!" — Glenn R. McKendree
- ✓ "Paula has character and spiritual faith combined with a strong commitment to put our children first. Paula is absolutely the right choice for our children!" — Clemmytee Daniels
- ✓ "Paula has a proven record of genuinely caring for the people of Baker County especially our children. She has the knowledge and experience to effectively serve as our School Board Member in District 3." — Vickie Sweat
- ✓ "Honesty, integrity, and family values are important qualifications of a School Board Candidate. Paula has them and the experience needed to serve as our School Board Member." — Effie E. Lauramore
- ✓ "Ms. Barton's eagerness and persistence in helping children is profound. Her unwavering character clearly displays her values in making the right decisions for children. There is no other individual as capable and qualified to serve as our School Board Member in District 3." — Charles W. Jackson, Jr.
- ✓ "Paula has a proven record of putting children first. Her love and dedication to the children of Baker County is evident by the quality education she led the effort to provide while serving as Superintendent. As a School Board Member she will contribute greatly to moving our district forward." — LuAnne Williams

Paid by Paula T. Barton for School Board.

OBITUARIES

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

CONTACT US

By phone at 904.259.2400 or by fax at 904.259.6502. You can stop by our office located at 104 S. Fifth Street, Macclenny, FL or mail your submission to PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063 Online at www.bakercountypress.com or email editor@bakercountypress.com

Funeral Wednesday for Mrs. Fraser

Loretta M. Martin Fraser passed to Heaven Sunday, August 3, 2014 at Community Hospice with her family by her bedside. Cause of death was heart failure. Loretta was born in southern West Virginia on January 26, 1934 to Robert and Esther "Hale" Martin. Her father died at an early age due to a mining accident. Loretta was educated in the public schools of Raleigh County, W.V. and through the large amount of reading she did. Reading and being a homemaker were her passions, which included caring for her family.



Loretta Fraser

Having become a Christian as a young girl, Loretta always put her family before herself. Her attitude was always "the cup is half full", never complaining as in "why me Lord?" Loretta moved to Jacksonville in 1955 and worked for Western Auto Distribution Center for twenty years, making numerous friends. She met Carl Brantley Fraser in 1957 and they were married December 31, 1959 at Franklin Street Baptist Church. Loretta and Carl moved to Baker County, Florida in October, 1977 where she assisted in defeating the old phrase "you can't go back home." Baker County became her home, Glen Baptist became her church, Carl's relatives and friends became her relatives and friends.

Loretta was predeceased by her father Robert Martin and mother Esther "Hale" Martin Ferguson; stepfather Marvin Ferguson; sister Iris Drysdale, and brother Bob Martin. She is survived by her husband Carl Brantley Fraser; daughter Lisa Renee (Brian) Patterson; grandchildren Sandra Mobley, Amanda Frazer, Justin (Ashley) Raiford; great-grandchildren Brantley Dean Bryant, Logan Chase Thornton, Trenton Reid Thornton, Gabriel Lee Raiford and Taylor Shea Raiford; sisters Zelma Martin and Roberta (Don) Oxley; brothers Fred (Judy) Ferguson and Mike (Debbie) Ferguson; sisters-in-law Sara (Pete) Sizemore, Fay (Conny Sr.) Fiser and Marion (Virgil) Raulerson; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends in Florida and West Virginia also survive.

Funeral services will be held 11 am on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at the Glen Baptist Church, Glen St. Mary, Florida with Pastor Randy Williams officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow at Manntown Cemetery, Glen St. Mary, Florida with Glen Raulerson, Berry Raulerson, Connie Fiser Jr., Donnie Oxley, Jeff Martin, Dean Bryant and Logan Thornton serving as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Northeast Florida Community Hospice or the Glen Baptist Church Building Fund. Forbes Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Debbie Griffis, 60, of Fernandina Beach

Deborah Sue "Debbie" Griffis, 60, of Fernandina Beach died Wednesday, July 30, at her residence following an extended illness. She was born in Augsburg, Germany and resided in Callahan before moving to Fernandina Beach 15 years ago. She was a homemaker and an avid reader.

She was preceded in death by her father Leo Bently Griffis. She is survived by son G.L. Zachariadis of Jacksonville; mother Louise Williams of Callahan; brothers Dwight Griffis of Fernandina Beach, Robert Griffis of Jacksonville and Richard Griffis of Callahan; grandchild Christopher Griffis.

The funeral service was held at 11 am on Monday, August 4 in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home, in Macclenny with Rev. Jim Cox, associate pastor of The Taylor Church, officiating. Interment was in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Sanderson.

Funeral held for Marie Daniels

Marie Daniels, 84, of Macclenny died after a lengthy illness July 25, 2014 at her residence with family by her side.

She had fourteen grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren and a special grandson Ricky Daniels whom she raised.



Marie Daniels

Vera Stafford of Glen dies August 2

Vera Otis Stafford, 93, of Glen St. Mary died on Saturday, August 2, 2014 at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville with her family by her side. She was born on October 20, 1920 in Jacksonville to the late Andrew Lee and Lottie Elizabeth Polk Glover. She attended Baldwin High School and was a homemaker. Her passion in life was caring for her husband and nine children. She enjoyed crochet, sewing, needle point, gardening, fishing and cooking for her family. She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Edmond Stafford, son Ronnie Stafford and daughter Annette Neideffer.



Vera Stafford

Mrs. Stafford is survived by daughters Emogene Box of Lake Butler, Jeanette (Edgel) Tyre of Lake City, Geraldine (Don) Harris of Ft. White, FL; sons Eugene Stafford of Ft. Pierce, FL; Earl (Ruby) Stafford of Lake City, Joe (Febbie) Stafford of Macclenny; Rickey (Lisa) Stafford of Sanderson; 20 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 34 great-great grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held on Wednesday August 6 at 3 pm at Calvary Baptist Church in Macclenny with pastors Donnie Williams Sr. and John Orberg officiating. Interment will follow in South Prong Cemetery, V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Funeral Wednesday for Mack Moser

Mack Eugene Moser, 85, died peacefully at his home in Macclenny on August 1, 2014. Mack was born on February 3, 1929 in Charlotte N.C., to James Luther and Verla Mae Benton Moser. He was a kind and considerate man who dearly loved his family, friends and church. Mack was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many callings, including bishop of the Palatka Ward. He was especially dedicated to the church's missionary program.



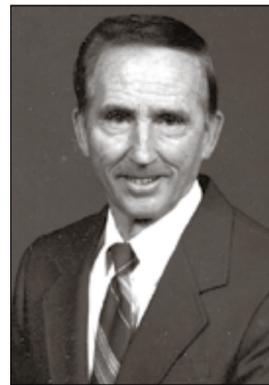
Mack Moser

Mr. Moser was a retired sales representative with the McCormick Spice Company. Prior to his move to Macclenny five years ago, he was a resident of Palatka and Jacksonville. He was a Korean War veteran and was very proud to be an American. Mack served as a member of the signal core in the Army learning telephone and teletype procedures. He operated on the front lines as chief field operator until returning to the U.S. where he instructed college ROTC telephone and teletype operations.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Elnora M. Austin, brother James Lander Moser, his wife of 31 years, Barbara Kent Moser, daughter Jan Mashburn, son Michael Moser and grandson Jack Crannell III.

He is survived by his wife of five years, LaViece Smallwood Moser; daughters Nancy Moser of Jacksonville and Judy (Jack) Crannell of St. Augustine; son Scott (Rhonda) Mashburn, grandson Travis Mashburn, granddaughter Taylor Mashburn, all of Gainesville; granddaughter Jeni (Jon) Revels of Hastings, Florida; great grandchildren John Justin, Jon and Jaci Revels; nieces, nephews and many friends.

The funeral service will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday, August 6 at his church in Macclenny, and the viewing will be one hour before the service. Interment with military rites will follow at Manntown Cemetery in Glen St. Mary. Giddens-Reed Funeral Home in Baldwin is in charge of arrangements.



In loving memory of
Our Father
John Wesley Lyons

Community Full Gospel Church

12664 Mud Lake Rd.

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm

Pastor Tommy Richardson || 904-275-2949

The Road to Calvary

Corner of Madison & Stoddard
Glen St. Mary
Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
Youth Director Rebecca Lauramore
Phone: 904-259-2213

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service . . 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service . . . 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

First Baptist Church of Sanderson

CR 229 S., Sanderson FL

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sun. Morning Worship . . 11:00 am
Sun. Evening Worship . . 6:00 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study . . 7:00 pm
Dr. Roy Vining

Funeral this Thursday for Frank D. Taylor

Franklin D. "One-Spot" Taylor, 81, of Taylor, died on Tuesday, August 5, 2014. A lifelong resident of Baker County, Mr. Taylor was the former owner and operator of the Taylor Store. He was a lifelong member of the Traveler's Rest Hunt Club and he enjoyed fishing and spending time with his friends and family.

He is survived by his sister Martha Mikell of Ocala, along with numerous nieces, nephews and other family members. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Lee Taylor.

A celebration of his life will be held at 3 pm on Thursday, August 7 at the Taylor Church with Pastor Jim Cox officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

We want to know...
WEDDINGS & BIRTHS
4 week deadline

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH

CR 127 N. of Sanderson
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm
Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church

121 North † 259-4461
Macclenny, FL
Pastor Tim Cheshire
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm



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

We print obituaries with a picture free of charge.

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church

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

THE LORD'S CHURCH

Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor
•• 259-8353 ••
Sunday school 10:00 am
Sunday service 11:00 am
Wednesday 6:30 pm
Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

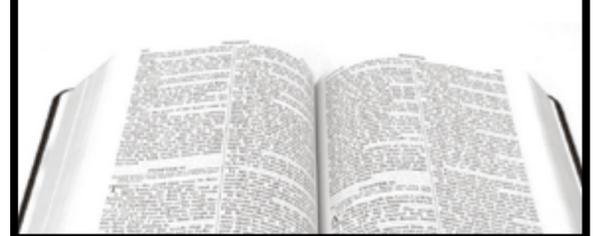
CARTHAGE CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, Inc.

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(904) 354-0545 || (904) 354-0546
Kenneth Peele, Jr., LFD
C.F.S.P.
Pre-Need Counselor
Embalmer & Notary
Email: fkpjr@aol.com

New Hope Church, Inc.
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Fairgrounds Rd.
Sunday
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Services 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all

Baxter Community Baptist Church vacation Bible School

AUG. 7TH-8TH STARTING AT 6 PM WITH DINNER
SATURDAY, AUG. 9TH BEGINNING AT 10 AM, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND GAMES!
25736 County Rd. 127 & Baxter



GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY
If you've lost someone close to you, or know someone who has, please call us to find out more information about our weekly GriefShare seminar/support group. We know it hurts, and we want to help.
First United Methodist Church
93 N. 5th Street, Macclenny
259-3551

GRIEF SHARE

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr.
Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
523 North Boulevard W. I a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com •• 259-4529

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

First United Methodist Church
Loving God
Loving People
Serving Our Community
Come Join Us
93 N. 5th St. (S2228) Macclenny, Fl ~ Sunday Worship 11am



Lester and Patricia Davis

Wed 50 years!

Patricia and Lester Davis of Glen St. Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Saturday, July 12, 2014.

The couple wed on July 18, 1964 in Sanderson.

Their wonderful children were present for the event: Jason and Kristen, Jeffrey and Amy, Dee Dee and Rev. Bill Lawhon. The Davises also have five grandchildren.

Joining the family to celebrate were the couple's good friends Bill and Cheryl Keelan and Duane and Sherrie Mallicoat.

Taylor school reunion Sept 6

A reunion of students from the former Taylor School is planned for Saturday, September 6 at the Ag Center on US 90 in Macclenny.

Classmates are sought for the event planning and coordination, and the next planning meeting is Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 pm at the home of Tara Yarborough Holman in Glen St. Mary.

For more information, please call Tara at 449-6566 or Benny Fish at 742-1516.

Seeks military items for event

Plans are in the works for a first-ever Baker County Veterans Appreciation Day on November 15, and organizers are seeking military items from the World War II and other eras for display.

Bill Lowery, one of the organizers, said every effort will be made to ensure that memorabilia will be protected and well taken care of during the event.

Potential contributors are urged to call Mr. Lowery at 562-0550 or Kelley Lowery at 654-8722 for more information.

They also set up a Facebook page called Baker County Veterans Appreciation Event.

Stewart reunion

The Stewart family reunion will be held on August 9 at the family homestead at 8080 Stewart Rd. in Macclenny.

The event starts at 11 am. Please bring a covered dish and drink. All friends and family welcome.

www.bakercountypress.com

Saint Peter's in the Glen
 ANGLICAN CHURCH
 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 7:00 pm Wednesday Services
 A mile South of I-10 on CR 125
 Glen St. Mary, Florida



PHOTOS BY JOEL ADDINGTON

National Night Out at city park

Pictured from the fourth annual National Night Out event at Memorial Park the evening of August 5 are (above) Maurice Lee, 6, and Zanya Ellis, 8, playing a dancing video game, (at left) Macclenny firefighter Rick Diggs slides down ropes hanging from the top of the city fire department's ladder truck, (below) siblings (l-r) Melissa, Gabriel, Dale and Scott Anderson enjoy refreshments, and (bottom) Trevor Hires, 2, of Wyoming meets Junior, a search dog at Baker Correctional.



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
 Meetings Mon., Wed. & Fri.
 at 8 pm
 8981 S. SR 228 Macc.

Advertising Deadline Monday 5:00 pm

REVIVAL
 Moniac Baptist Church
 10594 Hwy. 185 | St. George, GA
August 25-27
 at 6:30 pm nightly
 Guest Speaker:
DAVID HILL
Everyone is invited

HOMECOMING

Southern Joy

Sunday, August 17
 at 11 am
Mt. Zion NCM Church

Lunch following morning service

14670 N SR 121 | Macclenny | 259-4461

Cremation starting at \$895
Burial Packages starting at \$4,395
Dignified Services ~ Value Pricing

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 Call Bill Guerry or J.D. Tyre.

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 420 E. Macclenny Ave.
 Monuments | Final Expense Insurance

GUERRY FUNERAL HOME

YOUR VOTE COUNTS AND YOUR VIEWS MATTER!

That's why I'll be in your area 3-6 pm with **FREE hotdogs, burgers, chips & drinks:**

Glen St. Mary - Tues., Aug. 12
Margaretta - Fri., Aug. 15
Cuyler - Wed., Aug. 20
Sanderson - Thurs., Aug. 21
 & 12-3 pm in
Macclenny - Sat., Aug. 23

ADAM GIDDENS
 County Commissioner District 4

Paid by Adam Giddens, Republican, Baker County Commissioner, District 4.

Souls Harbor Church of God

Sunday:
 Sunday School 9:45 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am
 Kids Church 10:45 am

Tuesday:
 Senior Adult Services 10:00 am
 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month

Wednesday:
 Family Dinner 6:00 pm
 Harbor LIFE 7:00 pm
 (Youth Groups Kids Clubs Bible Study)

Join us this week and see why we are **The Most Exciting Church in Baker County!**

We are located on **US Hwy. 90 in Glen St. Mary**

Christian Fellowship Temple
 "A Place to Belong"

We would love to connect with you here at CFT to help you grow in your relationship with Christ and serve our community! Christian Fellowship Temple is an independent Pentecostal church located at 251 West Ohio Ave. in Macclenny, Florida.

For more information or to find out how to contact us, visit our website at www.christianfellowshiptemple.com

Like us on Facebook!

CFT SERVICE TIMES:

Wednesday: 6:00-6:45 Family Meal 7:00 Adult Worship Services 7:00 Youth Worship Services	Sunday: 10:00 Sunday School (All Ages) 11:00 Morning Worship Service 11:00 Children's Church 6:00 Evening Worship Service
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connect. grow. serve.

44TH HOMECOMING REVIVAL

August 10-13- Sunday 11 am & 6 pm
 Monday - Wednesday 7:30 pm nightly

Community FULL Gospel Church

with **Evangelist Ronald & Tonya Cook**

Pastor Tommy Richardson | 12664 Mud Lake Rd. | 759-9350

Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD...

BY PHONE

Call 904-259-2400

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

BY E-MAIL

classifieds@bakercountypress.com

BY MAIL

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

BY WEBSITE

www.bakercountypress.com

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

FOR SALE

Green Valencia Peanuts. \$30 per bushel. 386-752-3434. 7/17-8/7p

Telephone poles \$15 each, you haul; Coke bottles, empty with city and state on bottom \$1 each. 259-9690. 7/31-8/7p

NASCAR collectible semi-trailer and truck combinations. All different sizes. Come and see at 5719 CR 23B, Macclenny. 259-9520. 8/7p

2006 enclosed utility trailer 6x12 tandem axle, electric brakes, ramp rear door, side walk-in door; good condition. Asking \$2500. 904-397-0337. 8/7p

2 nice, clean single/twin mattresses. \$50 each. 259-2271. 8/7p

Gas stove, \$30 as is. 259-6679. 8/7p

Washer and dryer, good condition. \$200. 259-3143. 8/7p

Lead melting burner with 3 different sized pots. Looking for the black powder enthusiast who want to make their own bullets. 259-4196 or 904-207-2764. 8/7c

Winchester 12 gauge pump shot gun, very good condition \$275; 2 deer stands \$40 each; 1 ladder deer stand \$25. 904-654-7841. 8/7p

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Nanny's Thrift Store. Located across from old jail. Furniture, toys, clothes. You name it, we have it or we'll get it. 904-229-2303. 8/7-14c

Home Improvements-porches, decks, remodeling-any home repair. Licensed & Insured. 904-591-2640. 10/17tfc

ADOPT- loving married couple seeks to adopt, will be hands on mom and dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Dawn & Domenick 1(855)985-4592, Adam Sklar #0150789. 8/7p

ADOPTION: A childless loving couple seeks to adopt. Large family. Financial Security. Expenses paid. Eileen & Kim. kimandeleenadopt@gmail.com or 1-800-455-4929. 8/7p

We install 6" seamless gutters. Pressure washing. 259-7335. 8/11tfc

DirectTV - 2 Year Savings Event! Over 140 channels only \$29.99 a month. Only DirecTV gives you 2 YEARS of savings and a FREE Genie upgrade! Call 1-800-481-2137. 8/7p

DISH TV Retailer. Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) Find Out How to SAVE Up to 50% Today! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL 1-800-605-0984. 8/7p

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - \$99 FREE Shipping! 100 Percent Guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-800-943-8953. 8/7p

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 1-800-605-6035 for \$750 Off. 8/7p

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here - Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-314-3769. 8/7p

Narcotics Anonymous. We are a group of recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. IT WORKS!! Meetings are held at the Baker County Health Department on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m. 1/2-12/25p

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 pm. Call Wanda 904-994-7750. 8981 South SR 228, Macclenny. 1/2-12/25p

AUTOMOBILES

1970 Harley Davidson Sportster; needs transmission work, \$1300; 1987 Harley Davidson 1200, \$3500. 864-554-7648. 8/7-14p

1994 Ford Ranger, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, 87K miles \$1500; 1999 Saab 9.3, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, AC, PW, PL, sunroof \$1700; 1995 Chevy S-10, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, needs motor \$800; 2003 Saturn, 2 door coupe, 4 cylinder, automatic; needs transmission work \$1400. Randy 904-838-2648. 7/31-8/7p

1999 Ford Escort Wagon, runs and drives good \$1200; 2004 Saturn Ion, 4 door, 98K miles; needs head gasket \$1400; 2001 Chrysler Sebring convertible, 61K miles; engine has lifter noise \$1200. Randy 904-838-2648. 7/31-8/7p

2000 Chrysler van. Front/rear cold AC, new rack/pinion, power steering, good tires, 21 to 24 MPG, rebuilt transmission; rough exterior. \$900. 904-397-0213. 8/7p

2000 Kawasaki VN750 motorcycle, New Battery, Stator, & Voltage Regulator. \$2,900.00. 259-7523. 12/5tfc

ANIMALS

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

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers:

The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products. While the newspaper uses reasonable discretion in deciding on publication of such ads, it takes no responsibility as to the truthfulness of claims. Respondents should use caution and common sense before sending any money or making other commitments based on statements and/or promises; demand specifics in writing. You can also call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to find out how to spot fraudulent solicitations. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. - The Baker County Press

Family Support Worker: Children's Home Society of Florida is currently seeking a Family Support Worker for our Positive Parenting Program. Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to, conducting home visits and assessments. Qualified candidate must have a High School Diploma or GED equivalent (AA preferred) and 2 years experience working with children and families. Apply online at: www.chsf.org. EOE/DFW/ADA (accom. req. 5 day notice). 8/7p

Hair Stylist wanted. Booth rent position. 904-408-9729. 8/7-14p

Experienced Mechanic Help Needed: Must have own hand tools and work references. Apply at Jimmy's Automotive Repair, 959 West Macclenny Ave. M-F 8am till 5pm. 8/7c

UF Health Family Medicine - Crossroads, 802 South 6th Street, Macclenny is seeking a Medical Assistant/Customer Service person to work both front and back office. Must be Certified or Registered with two years customer service in Healthcare setting. Please apply www.ufjax.jobs or pam.nowlin@jax.ufl.edu. 8/7c

Concrete/Curb Finisher, Form Setter & General Laborers. Please call Gene 904-759-9845 or Mann 904-239-7532 to apply. Equal Opportunity Employer. 8/7-28p

City of Macclenny will be accepting job applications for a Utility Clerk position. The Clerk will serve customers at a counter, accepting utilities deposits, payments of fees and providing general information about utility services and regulations; operates a cash drawer, makes change, provide receipts, refunds deposits, responds to complaints, answers inquiries and refers requests for special readings or repairs to service department. Applications/resume will be accepted until August 12, 2014 at 5:00pm at City Hall. The applications that are proficient with Microsoft Office will receive preference. "This institution is an equal provider and employer." 8/7c

Hiring SQ attendant/bar tender. 259-2700. Send resume to P.O. Box 1482, Macclenny, FL 32063. 8/7c

Drivers: \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-855-515-8447. 7/17-8/7p

Wrecker Operator needed ASAP. Please send resume to rmtowing@aol.com. 6/12tfc

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

Drivers, CDL-A: Home EVERY Weekend! ALL Loaded/Empty Miles Paid! Dedicated Southeast! Or Walk Away Lease, No Money Down. 1-855-971-8523. 8/7p

HVAC Technicians. 4 Week Accelerated Hands On Training Program. We Offer 6 National Certifications And Lifetime Job Placement Assistance. VA Benefits Eligible! 877-994-9904. 8/7p

Want a Career Operating Heavy Equipment? Bulldozers, Backhoes, Excavators. "Hands On Training" & Certifications Offered. National Average 18-22 Hourly! Lifetime Job Placement Assistance. VA Benefits Eligible! 1-866-362-6497. 8/7p

Experienced OTR Flatbed Drivers earn 50 up to 55 cpm loaded. \$1000 sign on to Qualified drivers. Home most weekends. Call: 843-266-3731 / www.bulldoghiway.com EOE. 8/7p

REAL ESTATE

Notice to Readers

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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

2 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 2 acres in Taylor; needs work. \$25,000. 904-738-2262. 7/24-8/14p

14x52 2 BR, 2 BA mobile home on 1/2 lot, 1/2 mile from Big Lake George; fully furnished, includes washer and dryer. \$32,000. 904-521-3795. 8/7-28p

Baldwin 2 BR cottage on large lot on Clark Street. FHA-VA financing. Only \$25,000. Call John Swanson, Broker 904-257-9033. 8/7-14c

.5 acre lot for sale. Parcel #02-3S-20-0000-0000-0311. Asking \$3000. Call 904-627-8623. 7/31-8/7p

2 story, 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA stucco home on 1.43 acres in city, located at 375 East Boulevard. 2637 sf living area and covered area of 3145 sf including 3 car garage. \$239,500. Call 904-838-8584. 7/24tfc

Large 1 BR, 1 BA home/apartment with potential income of \$700-800 monthly. Large carport, can double size. Located on 30 acres; paved road frontage in Glen. \$169,900. Consider owner financing and dividing property. Price reduction with 10% down. 904-591-8200. 5/29tfc

1-10 acres, high and dry, fish pond, creek or river front, homes/mobile homes, set-up. Owner financing. 912-843-8118 or 904-699-8637. www.landyes.net.3/13tfc

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. 7/18tfc

Lots for sale, Copper Creek, \$25,000 and Glenfield Oaks subdivisions. \$32,000 each. Call 904-813-1580. 2/7tfc

FOR RENT

2 BR, 1 BA mobile home, CH/A. \$650/month plus \$500 deposit. 904-813-5558. 8/7c

2 BR, 2 BA extra clean mobile home. Nice shady lot; front porch. \$650/month plus \$500 deposit; extra clean 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA in Glen area; front/back porch, storage building, nice shady lot. \$700/month plus \$500 deposit. Service animals only. 259-2121. 7/10tfc

3 BR, 2 BA on .5 acres. \$600/month plus \$600 deposit. 904-813-3091. 7/31tfc

6 BR, 3140 SF on 4 acres, 5651 CR 23 C. Brick home, built in 2006; gas logs and more! \$1990/month plus \$1990 deposit. Real Estate with Garlon Webb 904-408-9146. 8/7c

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home, 9121 Dolphin Street, Sanderson. \$750/month plus \$750 deposit. Call 904-813-1580 or 259-2255. 8/7tfc

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home, 8553 Hillcrest Drive, Macclenny. \$800/month plus \$800 deposit. Call 904-813-1580 or 259-2255. 8/7tfc

3 BR, 2 BA spacious country home on Bob Kirkland Road in Macclenny. Call 259-8444 for more information or to get application. 8/7c

St. George 3 BR, 2 BA doublewide on 1 acre fenced. Remodeled, CH/A, kitchen equipped. \$700/month; will sell with owner financing. 904-879-2143. 8/7p

Apartment for rent. Large 2 BR, 1 BA in city; washer/dryer hook-up. 12 month lease, \$700/month plus \$600 security deposit. 904-838-8584. 8/7tfc

3 BR, 2 BA home on 10 acres of land. 4-5 acres are completely fenced and ready for cows, horses, etc. Home has been freshly remodeled, painted and ready for your family. Also has an additional 2800 SQ FT metal barn/shop that can be rented for an extra fee. House is \$1,000/month. Contact 904-591-2640. 7/31-8/14c

Efficiency in quiet neighborhood; water and electric included. \$575/month plus \$575 deposit. 904-408-9269. 8/7p

3 BR, 1 BA country frame house on Richardson Road. \$550/month, 1st, last and \$500 deposit. Leave message if no answer. 904-591-8664. 8/7-14p

Room for rent. Nice brick home, City of Macclenny, 1 mile from Wal-mart; walking distance to everything. Free access to washer, dryer, kitchen, etc. Perfect for senior citizen. Free unlimited internet. \$450/month plus \$150 deposit. 904-235-3054. 8/7-14p

Room for rent in Georgia Bend area; all utilities included. \$100/week. 904-772-4424. 7/24tfc

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home on US 90, Sanderson; CH/A. \$600/month plus \$600 deposit. Call 904-275-2450. 7/24-8/7p

RV lots for rent; water and sewer included. \$300/month plus electric. 904-860-4604. 6/12tfc

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home with CH/A at 9128 Dolphin Street, Sanderson. \$750/month plus \$750 deposit. Call 904-813-1580 or 259-2255. 5/15tfc

2 BR, 1 1/2 BA in Kozy Komers. CH/A, water, lawn and trash service included. Service animals only. \$545/month, 1st, last and \$300 deposit. 259-7335. 6/19tfc

2-3 BR mobile homes available. \$450-\$600/month. Half acre; garbage, water, sewer, lawn care provided; family neighborhood. 912-843-8118 or 904-699-8637. www.rentyes.net. 10/31tfc

COMMERCIAL RENT

For Lease- 1500 SF retail/office space at 541 S. 6th Street, Macclenny. \$1000/month. Call Jack at 904-616-9432.

VACATION RENTAL

Smoky Mountain cabin with trout stream near Cherokee, North Carolina, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and Dollywood. \$350 a week. 386-752-0013. 6/5-8/21p

FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE

RECRUITER, ADMISSIONS SERVICES

Assist in the planning and organization of activities designed to promote the college to prospective students. Assume the development of contacts with school systems, civic groups, area businesses, and the local community to encourage enrollment at FGC. Requires the ability to exercise independent judgment and discretion in recommending and implementing strategies. Associate's degree is required with two years of related experience. Must have a valid, unencumbered driver's license. Must be computer literate with experience in Word and Excel. Ability to work evenings, weekends and holidays as needed. Ability to work independently and communicate effectively. Ability to effectively plan, organize and coordinate work assignments. Ability to analyze and identify recruitment markets. Must have excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to speak with and before large public audiences. Desirable Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and previous experience in recruiting or working with the public is desirable.

Salary: \$29,831 annually plus benefits

Application Deadline: 8/21/14

Position details and applications available on web at: www.fgc.edu

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Florida Gateway College
149 S.E. College Place
Lake City, FL 32025-2007
Phone (386) 754-4314
Fax (386) 754-4814
E-Mail: human.resources@fgc.edu

FGC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. VPI/ADAI/EA/EO College in Education and Employment

DEADLINES

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



YARD SALES

Thursday and Friday, 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 7809 Cahone Court, Old Nursery Plantation. 259-7752. Ceiling fan lights, designer shoes, junior, ladies and toddler girl's clothes; lots more.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 12045 Sands Pointe Court. Multi-family; tools, jewelry, ladies and toddler clothes, home decor and more.

Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-?, 11505 Pine Loop, Glen St. Mary (125 N. to Park Street). Dressers, washing machine, bed, exercise equipment, kid's clothes, shoes, toys, kitchenware, etc.

Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Woodlawn Park Place, off Woodlawn Road. Rain or shine. DVD player, DVDs, lots more.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., 6331 W. River Circle, inside and outside red barn behind house. Molly Johns 904-716-0272. Lots of name brand clothes, shoes, football equipment and cleats, toys, books, movies, TV, chairs and lots more.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 428 S. 2nd Street, Macclenny. Men, women, junior's clothing, purses, shoes, belts and scarves.

Saturday, 7:00 a.m.-?, 8633 Pine Avenue, Macclenny II. Furniture, electronics, appliances, sports equipment, clothes for the family.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 164 N. 6th Street, across from Macclenny Church of God. Multi-family; lots of baby items, including boy and girl clothes, small appliances, home decor and household items.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 5244 Bluehole Road, 121 North toward Georgia line, follow signs. Huge sale; furniture, dishes, clothes, tools; too much to list. Rain or shine!

Saturday only, 8:00 a.m.-?, Emmanuel Baptist Church Youth Fundraiser, behind the church inside the teen building. Kitchen wares, comforters, sheets, lunch boxes, clothes, electronics; lots of other good stuff!

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 622 Largo Lane in Cypress Pointe. Multi-family; tables, china cabinet, entertainment center, bedroom sets, mattresses, bar stools, bookcases, desks, washer, dryer, TVs, loveseat and more.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-? and Sunday, 1:00 p.m.-? 1482 S. 6th Street, Macclenny. Estate sale; sofa & loveseat, leather reclining chairs, dining tables and chairs, rugs, coffee and end tables, lamps, new mattress and box springs, iron bed, credenza, inlay table, all wood armoire, pine table and 4 chairs, chest, dresser and nightstand. Too much to list.

MOBILE HOMES

Land/Home Packages. 3 BR-\$399/month; 4 BR-\$499/month. wayneferriermacclenny.com. 259-4663. 7/31-8/21c

Like New! 2007 3 BR doublewide. \$39K, set-up with AC. 259-4663. 7/31-8/21c

No Money Down, use your land. 2015 5 BR, 3 BA-\$599/month. wayneferriermacclenny.com. 259-4663. Ends 7/31. 7/31-8/21c

Brand New 2015 28x52. \$6K off. \$55,900. Set-up, with AC. Ends 7/31. 259-4663. 7/31-8/21c

Never Before Titled 3 BR, 2 BA. Will move for free. Only \$325/month. 904-783-4619. 8/7-14c

2014 Doublewide 3 BR, 2 BA. Only \$2K down, only \$275/month. 904-783-4619. 8/7-14c

Dollar and a Deed gets you a new 3 BR, 2 BA. Only \$350/month. 904-783-4619. 8/7-14c

Palm Harbor 4 BR, 2 BA over 2305 SF. Only \$550/month. 904-783-4619. 8/7-14c

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Jobless rate up .4%

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Baker County's unemployment rate ticked up four-tenths of a percent in June, according to the latest jobs report from the Florida Department of Economic opportunity.

The monthly report, which compares labor force estimates from month-to-month and year-over-year, shows the size of the local labor pool rose by an estimated 75 persons from May to June.

Seventeen of them found jobs and 58 of them did not, leading to a jobless rate of 5.6 percent, or 717 unemployed out of 12,761 in the labor force.

The unemployment rate for June is almost 2 percent lower than it was at that time last year, but it was also slightly higher than the 5.2 percent rate in May. The rate hit its lowest point in six years last April at 4.9 percent.

The state and national unemployment rate also shifted little last month. Florida's unemployment rose one-tenth of a percent to 6.2 percent, and the country's jobless rate rose two-tenths of a percent to 6.3 percent, in June.

The regional jobless rate — a figure that combines Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties — went from 5.9 percent in May to 6.2 percent in June. Putnam County remained the county with the highest unemployment in the region at 8.2 percent.

Most of the job growth in Northeast Florida — some 19,200 additional jobs since June, 2103 — has come in leisure and hospitality sectors, professional and business services gained the second most jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities. In fact, the Jacksonville metro area had the strongest annual job growth in the leisure and hospitality sectors.

Government was the only sector to lose jobs, about 300, during the previous year.

Colleges sign Gardner and Walton

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Two key members of last season's Wildcat basketball team's playoff run will get to continue their careers on the hardwood at the collegiate level.

Three-point sharpshooter Jesse Gardner signed his letter of intent July 30 to join Webber International in a ceremony held in front of teammates, family, coaches and BCHS administration. Fellow Wildcat point guard Brian Walton will be a preferred walk-on at FSCJ in the fall with a chance to receive a scholarship in his second semester. Getting the chance to play college basketball is an opportunity both always hoped would come true.

"It felt amazing," Gardner said about committing to play college ball. "It's crazy how my dreams are coming true."

For Gardner, Webber International's proximity to home helped him make his decision. He was originally considering



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Wildcat basketball standout Jesse Gardner with his coach and parents for a signing ceremony last week.

Photo by Jon Shumake

Vermont's Green Mountain College and Greensboro College in North Carolina before Webber International's coach offered him a partial scholarship during a workout at the school. Being four hours away in Babson Park is a lot better

than having to take a plane trip, he said.

Walton's relationship with Blue Wave coach Neil Orr made FSCJ his choice over Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman.

"He showed interest in me and showed that he actually

cared," Walton said. "There was consistent communication between us. It's going to make everything a lot easier."

Now, both players are looking forward to what their college experience will hold for them both on and off the court. Gardner, who is planning to major in general business, will red-shirt his first season as a Warrior and wants to spend the time getting faster and stronger while working out with the team. Walton plans on majoring in computer information security and said there's room for him to improve as a passer and dribbler to make himself a better point guard.

School starts for both players at the end of the month with practice beginning around the same time. As excited as they are for the next chapter of their careers, both said it was tough to leave their Wildcat teammates.

"I'll miss them a lot," Gardner said. "I already miss them. There's nothing like high school basketball."



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Photo by Jud Johnson

The defensive line runs drills during the first day of official practice for the Baker County High School football team.

Volleyball teams selected by coaches

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About 30 girls tried out August 4 and 5 for the BCHS Lady Cat volleyball team and first-year coach Ashley Holton is encouraged by the roster the coaching staff put together.

More girls attended tryouts than the team averaged during summer practices and they were graded on a points system during the two-day tryouts on different volleyball skills. The points system helped the coaches make their decisions, but it was still tough to decide the roster, coach Holton said. The keys to making the team were a player's attitude and hustle.

"Whoever can play together and hustle and have a good attitude is going to make the team for me," coach Holton said. "It was a lot harder than I expected."

After taking about 30 minutes to deliberate on the final roster with coaches Vanessa Roberts and Melody Coggin, the varsity and JV rosters were revealed. Coach Holton said about 15 players were returning from last year's team and she's confident in her players' abilities to have a successful season once it begins in late August.

"Everybody stepped up for tryouts and everybody knew they had a spot to earn and a position to take," she said. "We have a great squad together. I'm excited to see what happens."

Official practice kicks off for Wildcats

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Football season is officially underway.

The Wildcats held their first fall football practice August 4 in preparation of the upcoming season that begins with the Kick-Off Classic August 22 at Ed White. The team will hold two practices Monday, Tuesday and Friday, alternating which side of the ball will be focused on. Monday's morning practice was a defensive period with the offense getting more attention in the shorter afternoon session.

The coaching staff looked for proper execution out of the defense in the first practice as they were trying to make sure players lined up correctly and filled the right gaps in coverage. Head coach Tom MacPherson said the unit did well on their assignments and recognition, but the team lacked focus as the practice rolled on.

"We've got to get our seniors to step up and take leadership and take ownership of the team and not let guys do their own thing toward the end of practice," he said. "They're 16- and 17-year-old kids that are coming off summer break. There's a lot of things you have to take into account for a first day of practice, but I would have liked a little bit more of an intensity out there and a little more passion for what we're doing."

Players usually start focusing more once pads go on, coach MacPherson said, and the Cats will strap on pads beginning August 9. Practicing without pads also makes it more difficult for coaches to evaluate the team's execution because it's impossible to recreate realistic looks, the head coach said.

Still, there are two key position



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Rashood Haygood leaps for the catch above. Below, quarterback Jacob Carter hands off to Carter handing off to Vic Givens during practice the morning of August 4.

battles the coaching staff will keep their eyes on as fall practice continues. The head coach pointed out the offensive line and the secondary as two position groups that will have the toughest battles in practices as players try to emerge from the pack to earn playing time this season.

But before the games begin, the Cats will get another opportunity to better themselves in a scrimmage August 15 against Bartram Trail as part of an officials clinic at Bolles High School. The clinic is designed to give officiating crews extra experience to get ready for the upcoming season, but it also benefits the Cats



as they will get more live reps to become more game-ready for the regular season.

Coach MacPherson said he is happy to get any opportunities to scrimmage and hopes to see his players compete harder against Bartram Trail.

"The biggest thing is to get our guys to compete on every down," he said. "We take too many plays off. Anytime you can go against other people and you can get a result, even though it doesn't count, you still get a result. Sooner or later you have to hope kids respond to results."

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Putney first in her division

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After finishing third in the championship meet July 26 at Ponte Vedra among smaller YMCAs, the Bullets had one swimmer finish in first place in her division when the scores were combined with the next day's meet featuring larger teams.

Swimmer Kate Putney came in first place in the girls' 6-and-under division with 60 points with the second-place swimmer finishing six points behind her. Her first-place finishes in the division's 50-yard freestyle (50.46 seconds), 25-yard backstroke (29.76) and 25-yard freestyle helped the first-year swimmer claim the top prize.

"It's really pretty thrilling," Bullets coach Alice Oswald said of Putney's accomplishment. "She did very well and improved her stroke. She jumped right in there and worked hard the whole season."

The team also had high hopes for her brother Jack, who finished third overall among the boys 7- to 8-year-old division swimmers. He came in first in the division's 100-yard individual medley (2:04.34), second in the 50-yard freestyle (43.22) and third in the 25-yard breaststroke (24.78).

In addition to Kate and Jack Putney's success, the Bullets also had 11 other top three finishers after the two-day results were in.

Lori Ann Bliss won the girls' 13-14 50-yard freestyle with a time of 28.80. The only other first-place finish belonged to the girls' 8-and-under 100-yard freestyle relay team of Kate Putney, Addie Bliss, Avery Wilkerson and Presley Turner (1:47.11).

The Bullets had a slew of six second-place finishers.

Addie Bliss finished behind Kate Putney for second place in the girls' 6-and-under 25-yard freestyle (29.09). William Nickles earned second place in



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com Photo by Jessica Prevatt
Kate Putney begins her freestyle race.

the boys' 7-8 25-yard freestyle (22.56), while Seth Crawford finished in the same position in the boys' 11-12 50-yard backstroke (47.57).

Three relay teams also came in second place. The girls open 200-yard freestyle relay team of Hannah Johnston, Cheyenne Croft, Mya Harrington and Aspyn Elliot posted a time of 3:02.49. The boys 8-and-under 100-yard medley relay team of Lane Joiner, James Richardson, Nickles and Jack Putney took the spot with a time of 2:03.87. The girls 13-14 200-yard medley relay team of Lori Ann Bliss, Karlee Nelson, Kyrie Holmon and Elizabeth Dillard swam a time of 2:39.81.

Crawford in the 11-12 boys' 100-yard freestyle (1:15.97), Wheeler in the open boys' 100-yard freestyle (1:01.20) and Nelson in the girls' 13-14 100-yard breaststroke (1:31.56) all finished in third place.

With the final results of the championship meet tallied,

coach Oswald is already looking forward to the Bullets' 2015 season.

"It's sort of sad that the season is over," she said. "We had a good time and hopefully we'll see all these children back next year and have a great season."

Y pool repairs

The Bullets have been competing outside the county this season due to damaged decking at the Baker Family YMCA pool on West Lowder Street in Macclenny.

Michelle Moore, the First Coast YMCA's vice president of marketing and communications, said two contractors were brought in to evaluate the pool, including geotechnical testing of the ground underneath the pool on August 1. She said no leaks or damage was found to the pool itself and the test results are expected by mid-month.

Volleyballer Clack a signee

Selected by Converse as injury replacement

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Former Lady Wildcat volleyball player Candace Clack signed a national letter of intent to play for NCAA Division II Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C.

Clack, who graduated from BCHS in 2013 and spent a semester at Florida Gateway College, was originally recruited by the women's college during her senior year as a Lady Cat but the scholarship offer didn't pan out. Converse head coach Regina Schantz reached out to Clack on Facebook and gave her a scholarship opportunity after the Valkyries lost a player to injury.

"It was kind of by surprise," Clack said about the scholarship offer. "I'm really excited. I was the first one she called."

But the Lady Cats' 2012 Defensive MVP hasn't played competitively since she graduated high school. She's stayed busy on the court, though, with volleyball at church during the last year. She's

said she's "a little nervous" to play again, but she's excited to be a part of a team.

"I'm going to be a little rusty going back into it," she said. "But you never forget how to ride a bike. It's going to be good to have a team I'm going to be with for everything."

The 6-foot-3-inch middle hitter isn't just looking forward to getting back into volleyball action, but for everything college life has in store. She said she can't wait to live in a new place for a year while making new friends. Clack said she also wants to focus on her schoolwork when not playing volleyball, and she'll be majoring in business management.

Clack thanked her mom and coaches for giving her the opportunity to continue her collegiate career at Converse College, and former Baker County volleyball coach Heather Sulkowski wished Clack luck as she enters the next phase of her life.

"I am really excited for Candace and this opportunity that she has been given," coach Sulkowski said via e-mail. "She worked really hard and it has paid off for her."

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