



Grand for culinary
DATE 1/4/18
Page 7



Ferry clinches title by 2
Page 12

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

88TH YEAR | VOLUME 37

JANUARY 4, 2018

AT A
GLANCE

► **THINGS TO DO**

JANUARY 5

BCHS Wildcat soccer vs Matanzas
4 p.m.

Baker County High School Baker County's boys soccer team returns from Christmas break against Matanzas. Kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m.

BCHS Wildcat basketball vs Columbia

6 p.m.
Baker County High School
The BCHS Wildcat basketball team is in action against Columbia. The junior varsity game tips off at 6 p.m., and the varsity game follows the JV's conclusion.

JANUARY 6

District 5-1A girls weightlifting meet
10 a.m.

Baker County High School
The BCHS Lady Wildcat weightlifting team tries for its third straight District 5-1A championship. Weigh-ins begin at 10 a.m., and the lifts are expected to start around 11:30 a.m.

JANUARY 8

Annual fair meeting
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
at the Baker County Fairgrounds

The annual Baker County Fair Association meeting with voting to replace expiring board members will be January 8 at 7 p.m. at the fair grounds. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the county fair is invited to attend.

MORE ON PAGE 3

► **MORE INSIDE**



First Coast Classic
See page 13

Green light for RV resort in Glen St. Mary

Page 4



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com
Marshall and Tanya Rowan with the award-winning 1972 Chevrolet C10, restored from its rusty condition (top left).
Photos by Jim McGauley

From junk to a 'work of art'

JIM MCGAULEY
editor@bakercountypress.com

"It's the pinnacle of everything I've done."

That's how Marshall Rowan describes the years long effort he's put into a custom restoration of a 1972 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck that was first hauled to his north county residence from a Jacksonville junk yard literally in pieces.

Today it sits, parked in all its glory in Marshall's backyard mechanic, body and paint shop, a hand-shaped and machined version of the original design that now doesn't appear to have anything but curves. Under the hood, in chrome of course, sits a 407 cubic inch, 400-plus horsepower behemoth of an engine that roars to life at the press of a button.

How close to perfection is this medium blue restoration work of art?

Good enough that it racked up 992 of 1000 points when judged against other restored vehicles at Eckler's Chevy Classics national show in Orlando last March. That was sufficient for first place among the custom trucks and prompted a suggestion by a professional photographer during a Daytona Beach show in July that the truck was worthy of publication in a national magazine.

So photos were submitted to Chevy Classics Magazine and a writer was assigned to interview Marshall, 56, a self-employed jack-of-all-trades who makes his living doing residential maintenance, repairs and remodeling.

Of his daytime job, he claims, "I've worked around Baker County for all kinds of people, including important ones and some who think they're im-

portant."

In all his years of tinkering, restoring and repairing, though, national recognition from a respected magazine takes the prize.

"I thought what came out of that would be a small article with a picture, you know, just another backyard (restoration) job. Imagine how surprised we were when the magazine arrived with an eight-page spread, including the full centerfold and the cover photo! I never would have believed it'd be on the cover."

Sure enough, there in the January edition that arrived in late December is Marshall's work of mechanical art as the main feature, complete with other photos and a glowing article that highlighted the first-place accolades from

See page 2

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Incremental fire fee increase likely

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

County Manager Kenie Downing asked for marching orders to begin implementing an increased special assessment for fire protection this week and she got them.

She was up against an early March deadline to finalize the revised assessment to make it effective for the 2018-19 fiscal year starting October 1.

The higher assessment is aimed at dramatically improving the now mostly volunteer fire department with new employees, vehicles,

"We have to fund the vision. Whatever the number is, I'm willing to defend it."

-County Commissioner James Croft



equipment and facilities.

Following a roughly two-hour discussion on increasing the county's \$30.50 fire assessment, county commissioners set a course for incremental increases over seven years, with a large increase in the first year to about \$91 to start improvements sooner rather than later.

A longer 10-year implementation plan was presented by the county manager and the chair and vice chair of a citizen visioning committee that spent much of last year outlining potential options.

The fire assessment would reach about \$200 in the final three years, though commissioners and county

officials were quick to point out that assessments could be adjusted in the future to account for changing needs, grant revenue and residential growth.

"Let it grow with the county," Commissioner James Croft argued.

The biggest expenses in the fire department improvement plan beyond adding new employees are two new fire stations in Glen and Sanderson.

Commissioners opted for new stations consisting of mobile homes and separate three-bay garages for new engines, tankers and ambulances. They're estimated to

See page 2

Pot shop future is up in air Outside city

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
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While the county and the City of Macclenny both adopted one-year moratoriums on medical marijuana dispensaries last year, only the city appears poised to ban them permanently following the legalization of medicinal

"I would not be in favor of the medical marijuana dispensaries within the county."

-Commissioner Jimmy Anderson

cannabis by voters overwhelmingly in 2016.

That doesn't necessarily mean, however, that county commissioners support the establishment of dispensaries here; they just haven't done anything to stop them.

At least not yet. City commissioners, meanwhile, voiced support last month for a ban on dispensaries in Macclenny, a choice they feel forced to make because state lawmakers didn't give local governments much leeway in regulating them, beyond keeping them at least 500 feet away from schools.

"We've been painted into a legislative corner," said Macclenny Mayor Mark Bryant on December 12.

City officials feared the dispensaries, as cash businesses, could become targets for robbers, and that since state law prohibits the city from restricting dispensaries any more than pharmacies are today, they could be located near churches, parks, daycares and other places children congregate.

County commissioner Cathy Rhoden, who convened an anti-drug task force late last year, said this week she fears dispensaries could bring negative consequences

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Marshall Rowan with some of the tools that helped him in the five-year restoration.

Truck makes centerfold...

From page 1

far under budget, and that's how I ended up with it." Thereafter, he set upon in the fall of 2012 the painstaking work of putting the truck back together in one piece, many of the parts fabricated in his well-appointed shop that looks like it belongs to someone with a master certification in diesel, automobile and body work. The multi-faceted mechanic and former adjunct college instructor in his field has restored other vehicles over the years and in a second garage on the property awaits another 1972 Chevy pickup that can best be described as a rusted hulk. Beside it is the mounted remains of an equally neglected 1972 Camaro that belonged to his son before they switched ownership. It's not surprising that son Blake has his own body shop just north of Glen St. Mary off CR 125, now making a living for himself and a young family. Tanya Rowan, a teacher with a doctorate-level degree at the Pre-K and Kindergarten in Macclenny, is familiar with every step of the recent restoration process as she and her husband flip through a photo album depicting every major step in the five-year restoration. She's been around cars all her life with a father Harold Perry who raced, restored and worked on vehicles in South Florida where she grew up.

"I was two weeks old the first time they took me to the race track," she points out. Marshall believes it's possible the recent publicity could result in offers to buy the Chevy classic, and he'd sell it for the right price. The price point, he realizes, can never take into account the hundreds of hours it took to bring the blue beauty to its present condition. "The way I look it, this is my hobby. Others like hunting and fishing and those cost money too. I think I could easily get back what I've put in that truck in parts, but I don't need money for the time involved — that's what I like to do. That's my mental therapy, you might say."

"They had this idea they could restore it for about \$8000 and make about a million dollars on it," recalls Marshall, who still has the handwritten "budget" compiled by the boys. "It didn't take long before they realized that was

Fee: Two new fire stations

From page 1

cost \$356,000, financed at 4 percent interest, or some \$360,000 total. The stations would have five bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen and living room area. Wayne Frier submitted a quote of \$74,900 for each mobile home to include set up and delivery, plumbing hook ups, a 5-ton heating and cooling system, steps and white vinyl skirting. Additional costs could include permitting, dirt pad foundation and power hookups. The Glen and Sanderson areas were identified for new stations because they receive the most calls for service. In addition, the Sanderson station is the most need of repairs.

Mrs. Downing called it the "most problematic" of all the county's stations because fire trucks must back into the station by blocking traffic on U.S. 90 and it has roof problems. "We felt it should be addressed first," she said. The commission's plan also calls for eventually staffing both new stations with six full-time firefighters, two per shift, buying new engines and tankers for each new station and funding new equipment, maintenance and station improvements county-wide.

The additional employees were estimated at \$50,000 each and the engines (\$275,000 each) and tankers (\$225,000 each) could be financed for about \$62,000 per year at 4 percent. The plan also consists of installing 20 dry fire hydrants — connected to wells or surface water bodies — at \$500 each throughout the county. Struck from the plan presented by Ms. Downing and vision committee members Trevor Nelson, a battalion chief with Jacksonville Fire Rescue, and Jack Baker Jr., a Macclenny insurance broker, were a new station in Cuyler in later years with six full-time firefighters.

"I think it's reaching ...," commented commissioner Jimmy Anderson during the discussion. "Can we afford that? ... Do we need that? I'm not sure." However, commissioners added \$100,000 per year for improvements at the outlying county fire stations, both to the stations themselves and equipment, including those in Cuyler, Taylor, Baxter and two near Macclenny. It was a move urged by Commissioner

James Bennett. "It can't be exclusively Glen and Sanderson ... Every citizen in the county will be paying for it ...," he said. Mr. Nelson lauded the idea as well. "You put \$100,000 into those stations a year, in 10 years you've upgraded all your stations besides Glen and Sanderson, making them something people will be proud of and want to serve at," he said, alluding to the fact that the outlying stations would still be manned by volunteer firefighters, of which there is a short supply. The county stills needs to identify locations for the new stations in Glen and Sanderson, preferably within 5 road miles of most of the homes in each area, which is the area that could see the most savings on homeowners insurance rates, according to Mr. Baker. "They need to be placed where they impact the most households ... That's going to be very important moving forward," he said.

Commissioners also agreed to hire an attorney specializing municipal assessment for some \$64,000. Ms. Downing said the Tallahassee firm, Bryant, Miller and Olive, has a legally defensible methodology for determining the exact assessment amounts to ensure when the county adopts its new assessments, they'll stand up in court.

There was much less discussion this week regarding the new proposed EMS assessment, beyond Commissioner Croft noting his opposition to it because it was coupled with a proportionate cut to the county's property tax, or millage, rate. "I think it will be so confusing to do that," he said, adding that it would also be a large hit residents' pocket books. The EMS plan calls for setting the assessment at \$61.86 the first year and increasing it to \$73.76 after four years, where Ms. Downing said it would flatten out. The millage rate would also drop the equivalent of \$54.71.

The new fee would fund raises for employees, two new officer positions, new truck for the EMS director and new ambulance lease. Commissioner Bennett suggested not lowering the millage rate, but reducing the assessment amount to make up the difference to avoid the confusion. The workshop meeting was then recessed.

Baker County Fair Association ANNUAL MEETING

The Baker County Fair Association will hold its annual meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 7pm at the Baker County Fair Grounds. Positions for expiring Board members will be voted on and filled at this meeting. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Fair Association is invited to attend.

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Felon arrested for battery

A convicted felon who served prison time for child abuse and drug offenses was arrested at midday on December 29 for battery on his live-in girlfriend and felony possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.



Thomas Koch

Thomas Koch, 24, was taken into custody at his residence off North Boulevard in Macclenny after Deputy Jeffrey Davis Jr. responded to a call that he and girlfriend Christy Boyett, 18, were arguing loudly in a

nearby church parking lot. The officer spotted Mr. Koch standing on the front porch of his trailer, and then go inside when he saw the patrol car. Deputy Davis then approached the front door and heard what sounded like fighting inside, so he entered to find Ms. Boyett pacing the living room holding her left hand and with blood on the side of her lips. She showed the deputy a finger that appeared to be broken.

Mr. Koch then walked from the rear of the trailer and admitted he shoved the victim during an argument as she collected belongings to leave him. Another occupant of the trailer, Michelle Cason, 22, said she earlier went outside to pull the boyfriend off Ms. Boyett as he lay atop striking her. Once inside, he allegedly grabbed her vehicle keys and threw them back at her face before a shoving match that landed her on the floor.

Later at Fraser Hospital's emergency room, Ms. Boyett was treated for the finger broken in two places, facial abrasions and a cut inside her lip. She told Deputy Davis about the .25 caliber pistol that was soon found inside a lint catcher in the laundry room.

The officer also found smoking pipes, a bong pot cigarette, a grinder and scales on a dresser in Mr. Koch's bedroom. Department of Corrections records indicate he was in prison for a year ending in July, 2016 for trafficking drugs, obtaining them by fraud and child abuse.

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS
Mon. - Sat.
at 8 pm
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The Baker County Press Weather
Jan. 4, 2018

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Sunny
High: 47 Low: 22

Friday
Sunny
High: 45 Low: 23

Saturday
Sunny
High: 47 Low: 29

Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 57 Low: 44

Monday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 62 Low: 49

Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 60 Low: 47

Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 55 Low: 42

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Jasper 46 / 22 Callahan 47 / 22 Fernandina Beach 48 / 28
 Watertown 47 / 22 Macclenny 47 / 22 Jacksonville 47 / 27 Atlantic Beach 48 / 29
 High Springs 47 / 22 Baldwin 47 / 22 Starke 48 / 23 St. Augustine 49 / 29

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	7:25 a.m.	5:41 p.m.
Friday	7:25 a.m.	5:42 p.m.
Saturday	7:25 a.m.	5:43 p.m.
Sunday	7:25 a.m.	5:43 p.m.
Monday	7:26 a.m.	5:44 p.m.
Tuesday	7:26 a.m.	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	7:26 a.m.	5:46 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	6.02 ft.	+0.08 ft.
Macclenny	4.24 ft.	-0.02 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	1:43-3:43	2:12-4:12
Fri	2:40-4:40	3:07-5:07
Sat	3:33-5:33	3:58-5:58
Sun	4:22-6:22	4:46-6:46
Mon	5:09-7:09	5:32-7:32
Tue	5:55-7:55	6:17-8:17
Wed	6:40-8:40	7:02-9:02

Weather History

Jan. 4, 1989 - Up to a foot of snow blanketed the mountains of West Virginia and strong winds in the northeastern United States produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in Maine. Mount Washington, N.H. reported wind gusts to 136 mph.

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 12/26	68	36	67/40	0.00"
Wed, 12/27	59	46	67/40	0.06"
Thu, 12/28	52	45	67/40	0.12"
Fri, 12/29	45	34	67/40	0.01"
Sat, 12/30	52	34	67/40	0.00"
Sun, 12/31	61	34	67/40	0.02"
Mon, 1/1	46	34	67/40	0.32"

Precipitation 0.53"
Normal precipitation 0.62"
Departure from normal -0.09"
Average temperature 46.1°
Average normal temperature 53.5°
Departure from normal -7.4°

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Pot shops: Fate unclear in county

From page 1

that she saw in Colorado, which unlike Florida has legalized recreational use of the drug, including driving while intoxicated and homeless people on the streets lighting up.

She believes marijuana to be a gateway drug and that legalization of marijuana for medicinal use, which she supports, makes legalization for recreational use much more likely in the future.

Still, the commissioner said the issue of whether to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in Baker County deserves further research.

"I can't give you a definitive answer," said Ms. Rhoden prior to the board's monthly meeting January 2.

The same afternoon Commissioner James Croft said that given a majority of Baker County voters favored the constitutional amendment that legalized the drug for medical use in Florida, he would not stand in the way of its implementation locally.

The amendment passed with 64.6 percent in the county and 71.3 percent statewide.

After a discussion last month by Macclenny city commissioners about potentially banning the dispensaries within city limits once the city's year-long moratorium on them expires in February, *The Press* sought the perspectives of county commissioners on the issue in recent weeks, as they were

the first local governing body to establish the moratorium nearly one year ago.

"I applaud them for their stand," county commission chairman Bobby Steele said of city commissioners by email last week. "But I will have to reserve my comments until this matter appears before us."

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson does not want dispensaries here.

"I would not be in favor of the medical marijuana dispensaries within the county," he said by email last week. "If someone needed the drug there are other ways to secure [it]. We already have a drug problem we are dealing with in the county and that is legal prescriptions."

Commissioner James Bennett did not respond to requests for comment on the matter by email and text. He was not available prior to this week's county commission meeting.

When the county's moratorium was considered in January, 2017, county attorney Rich Komando said it would give the county time to research how other jurisdictions were regulating the dispensaries. The county would have to amend its land use regulations to accommodate the dispensaries, it was reasoned, and the additional time would help in determining the best way to do so.

The ordinance itself stated that a moratorium would "allow for sufficient

time to research, study and analyze the potential impact of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers or approved Dispensing Organizations upon adjacent uses and the surrounding areas, traffic, congestion, surrounding property values, demand for county services and other aspects of the public safety and welfare."

However, the county never amended its land use regulations in light of the state constitutional amendment to legalize certain types of medical marijuana for specific conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, or PTSD, cancer, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS and other similarly debilitating conditions.

The county has also not conducted any further research into the matter since the moratorium was passed.

"Aside from monitoring what the legislature is doing in Tallahassee, the county hasn't done any additional research or study regarding medical marijuana," said county manager Kenie Downing this week. "So far, this topic is not scheduled for discussion by the board."

According to Macclenny attorney Frank Maloney last month, the city and county moratoriums cannot be extended without violating state law. As such, if the county's moratorium expires later this month, medical marijuana dispensaries will be legal in the county.

THINGS TO DO

JANUARY 9

BCHS Wildcat soccer vs Baldwin

4 p.m.
Baker County High School
The boys soccer team hosts Baldwin at 4 p.m.

Tobacco cessation classes begin
5:30 p.m.

The free classes are Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the county health department, 480 W. Lowder St., and include free nicotine replacement therapies like gum and lozenges. Participants can register by calling (904) 482-0189.

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Inmate charges at officer

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A county jail inmate is facing an additional felony count of battery on a law enforcement officer after he allegedly attacked a corrections deputy the morning of December 27.

The officer, Steven Sikes, 43, was treated at Fraser hospital for a knee injury that occurred as Deputy Sikes and another corrections officer attempted to subdue inmate Thomas Braddy, 26, who was being held on felony theft and forgery counts for cashing bogus payroll checks worth more than \$2440 in August and September.

Deputy Sikes' knee injury required a soft cast and crutches, though the extent of the damage was not known at the time of Detective Robert Simpkins' report on the incident.

According to video and witness statements, Mr. Braddy was seated at a video visitation station when Deputy Sikes retrieved a piece of cut shirt from his cell, dubbed contraband by the officer. Then as the officer approached the inmate from behind, Mr. Braddy "stands ... and charges at Deputy Sikes with his handcuffed hands raised in a threatening manner," reads the detective's account.

A struggle ensued as Mr. Braddy resisted the officer's attempts to gain control of him before another deputy, Adolphus Warren, 47, joined the scuffle.

The inmate was then subdued on the ground, placed in restraints and isolated.

Two days later a Glen St. Mary man wanted on a Nassau County warrant was taken into custody at the home of his child's mother after he reportedly broke her vehicle window and later resisted arrest when deputies arrived.

Daniel Wilson, 20, was asleep on a couch when deputies John Taylor and Jared Satterwhite responded to the delayed complaint by Jodi Hendricks, 35, in the early morning hours of December 30.

She said she waited until the suspect fell asleep to report the vehicle damage the previous evening, estimated at \$300, because she feared Mr. Wilson could become aggressive.

The suspect, who was later found in possession of meth and a smoking pipe, woke to the officers informing him he was under arrest for the warrant. Then after starting to cry, according to Deputy Taylor, Mr. Wilson attempted to flee the residence on Ivy Street in Macclenny.

By then Sergeant Pat-

rick McGauley had entered the home and he and Deputy Satterwhite attempted to gain control of the suspect after the latter officer grabbed onto him and took him to the floor.

Mr. Wilson reportedly resisted arrest by keeping his hands underneath him and attempting to kick the officers. After several taser shots, however, the suspect was subdued and restrained.

A subsequent search of his pockets revealed the bag of meth and pipe. A rescue unit was dispatched to the scene to evaluate Mr. Wilson because he reportedly banged his head against the door of Deputy Satterwhite's patrol vehicle after being placed inside.

Sgt. McGauley reported that the suspect was sweating profusely during the incident and appeared to be under the influence of narcotics.

Once medically cleared, Mr. Wilson was taken to county jail for resisting arrest with violence for allegedly attempting to hit Sgt. McGauley during the altercation, resisting without violence, criminal mischief, possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia and the warrant from Nassau County for an undisclosed offense.

Nutrition classes

A free four-week nutrition education class will start up at the health department. 480 W. Lowder St., on January 10.

This class is one hour and will repeat weekly through January 31, 2018 from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. This free class will cover topics that including eating healthy on a budget, reading food labels, modifying your favorite recipes to be healthier, maintaining a healthy body weight and ways to increase physical activity.

The remaining dates are January 17, 24 and 31. Participants can register for the class by calling 904-653-5268 or emailing robert.tapaes@flhealth.gov.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

RV park to have on-site sewage

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Just when it looked as though plans to build a 121-acre luxury RV resort in Glen St. Mary might be in jeopardy because developers had run into a problem securing sewer service, a solution was revealed at a county commission meeting Tuesday evening this week.

On-site package treatment plants will be built to take care of all the sewage produced at the Glen Oaks Premier RV Resort, thus negating the need for municipal sewer service, developers and their engineer announced at the final hearing on zoning and land use changes for the project.

Applications have already been submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection seeking permits to build 10-20 individual package plants dispersed throughout the property to process raw sewage, Henry A. Vorpe, Jr., president of AVA Engineers Inc., told county commissioners.

Mr. Vorpe said the Town of Glen St. Mary will provide

potable water to the site but the park will be responsible for meeting its own sewer capacity needs, which will gradually increase as the park develops in stages.

"The project is going to be phased in," Mr. Vorpe said, noting that at build-out the resort will contain 600-650 "units," or RV spaces, each generating an estimated 75 gallons of waste per day.

Commissioner James Bennett, for one, said he was delighted to hear that the sewer issue had been resolved and that the RV park development will proceed.

"I want to commend them for working as diligently as they have to find a solution for this," Commissioner Bennett said. "This is a fantastic opportunity for Baker County."

After receiving the commission's final approval of comprehensive land use changes and zoning on the property off CR 125 South and Nursery Boulevard, developer Chris Funk of Suncoast Property Management, LLC of Jacksonville, said he and his team had worked hard to resolve the sewer is-

sue in recent weeks.

While he said "we may lose some RV sites" and incur greater costs to build the treatment facilities, it will be worth it to move the development forward.

Prior to this week it appeared as though the project may be doomed, or at least stalled, when it became apparent that the City of Macclenny did not have enough capacity at its wastewater treatment plant to meet the anticipated sewer needs of the RV resort.

Even after reducing the park's projected sewer capacity of over 80,000 gallons per day (GPD) down to 67,000 GPD, City Manager Phil Rhoden said last month that was still much too much and that "our preliminary numbers indicate that's not an option for us."

Reached by phone at his residence after the county commission meeting Tuesday night, Mr. Rhoden said it sounded like package treatment plants will be a reasonable solution for the county and the developers.

"To me, that sounds like a win-win," the city manager said. "I'm glad they got it worked out."

Mr. Rhoden went on to say that he had assumed package treatment plants were part of the original plan anyway "when they didn't come to us initially" about sewer service.

The city extends water and sewer services to the Town of Glen St. Mary, which will bury utility lines to the project site. Mr. Rhoden said last month that Juanice Padgett, the mayor of Glen St. Mary, still had not requested additional capacity for the project.

In addition to zoning and land use changes granted by the county commission this

week, the board approved a revised site plan for the following:

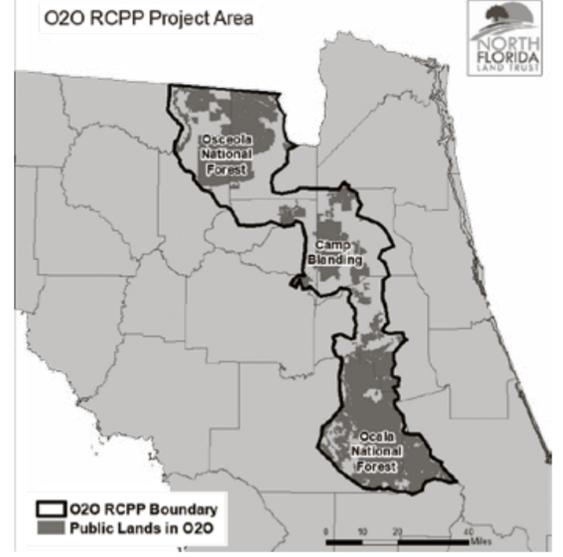
- Removal of cart paths from within a 25-foot buffer around the perimeter between park grounds and adjacent residences.
- The addition of a privacy fence on the Northeast property line closest to neighboring homes.
- Additional event parking facilities.
- Proposed off-site drainage conveyance.

Glen Oaks Premier RV Resort has been authorized to build no more than 900 RV spaces for Class A, B and C motor homes as well as various travel trailers for stays up to one year. Tent camping, primitive camping, truck campers and folding camping trailers will be prohibited.

The plans also include a host of other facilities, such as a service and administrative center, convenience store, laundry mat, lavatory, toilet and showers, pavilions, a theater structure, pool house, clubhouse, restaurant and more.

The property, adjacent to the Journey food store and gas/diesel fueling station just north of I-10, is currently owned by Drees Homes of Florida, Inc., which bought it in 2005 with plans to build a housing subdivision.

The future land use was changed from residential to recreation and the zoning was changed from residential (half-acre lots) to a flexible zoning classification known as Planned Unit Development, which gives the county more control over the development.



A swath of the corridor encompasses much of the western county.

Another link in wildlife corridor

JOEL ADDINGTON | MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The regional land conservation nonprofit organization North Florida Land Trust recently added another 522 acres in nearby Columbia County, gaining further ground to complete the so-called Ocala to Osceola, or O2O, wildlife corridor.

The land on the western boundary of the Osceola National Forest was donated to the land trust, similar to some 2400 acres in Sanderson that was placed in a conservation easement in 2016 to extend the O2O corridor, which is designed to give wildlife a clear path of undeveloped property between the two national forests in central and north Florida.

Then this week North Florida Land Trust announced it secured a more than \$3.5 million federal grant to further its efforts to complete the corridor.

The recent land donation by Rebecca Carter Nowicki in memory of John Michael Carter in Columbia County rests between SR 441 and the national forest two miles south of the Florida-Georgia border in White Springs.

"We are thankful to the Nowicki family for giving us this property which has significant conservation value," said Jim McCarthy, president of land trust. "The property is within the O2O corridor and is a major conservation initiative for us. Our team, led by Dr. Susan Carr, has been focusing on preserving property within this nationally critical wildlife passage, which is home to many species, including the black bear. Dr. Carr and our Stewardship Director Elizabeth Guthrie witnessed evidence of the black bears' presence during their assessment of the land."

The land consists of forested wetlands including bay swamp and scrub-shrub wetlands. It borders the Osceola National Forest and is adjacent to the United States Forest Service's North Sandlin Bay Ecosystem Restoration project, which is focused on restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem, the native plant and animal species associated with that ecosystem, and reducing the wildfire risk.

The O2O corridor stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest and eventually to the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. The passage provides habitat connectivity for the black bear, along with endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises. In total, there are 34 federally threatened and endangered species, and three disappearing habitat types within the O2O.

National forest acreage is split nearly equal in Columbia and Baker counties, the latter constituting the eastern border.

The large federal grant of \$3,560,000 announced this week came from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"We are extremely proud that this project has been selected as one of only four projects within the state of Florida to be chosen for the RCPP award," said Mr. McCarthy. "We are focused on protecting the lands along this corridor, which is critical to the survival of natural ecosystems. We will work closely with the Florida NRCS and our partners to benefit the natural resources as well as the private working lands and multiple local economies. Wildlife viewing is a \$4 billion a year industry in Florida. We need to protect it."

There are 1.6 million acres of public and privately owned forested land within the O2O corridor, which includes 80,000 acres in the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, a central component of the O2O region, the two national forests and other publicly owned land.

"The RCPP funding will allow us to focus our attention on approximately 100,000 acres of privately owned land within the O2O corridor. We would like to acquire conservation easements on that property from willing landowners over the next five years," said McCarthy.

The other partners on the project include the Florida Department of Military Affairs Army National Guard, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service, Alachua Conservation Trust and the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Each partner will contribute financial or technical assistance to match the RCPP award.

The O2O partnership will implement the conservation program through a combination of land protection and land management incentives for private landowners. They plan to do this through conservation easements, conservation management and other state and federal programs, by encouraging production of working timberlands that provide wildlife habitat and by adopting innovative strategies for regional conservation.

RCPP was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and seeks partners for land and resource conservation programs that benefit private working lands and local economies. NRCS plans to invest about \$220 million in 2018 for 91 Regional Conservation Partnership Projects across the country.

More information on the O2O corridor can be seen in a video produced by students from the North American Nature Photography Association's College Program (NANPA) with the assistance of NFLT staff. The video can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/207243255>. For more information on the land trust, visit www.northfloridalandtrust.org.



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Used car lot seeks exemption

U.S. 90 location

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Macclenny may be getting a new used car dealership on West Macclenny Avenue in front of the closed Bumper-to-Bumper auto parts store.

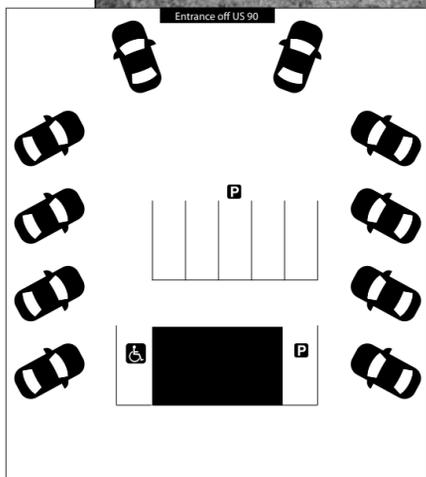
Dale Stuhr of Farsouth Investments, Inc. of Glen St. Mary and Sam & DJ's Wholesale Direct are seeking a special exception for a small car lot on about one-fifth of an acre west of the CVS at the northwest corner of 90 and South Sixth Street.

The property is zoned commercial general, where auto dealerships are permitted only with an approved special exception from the City of Macclenny's Zoning Adjustment



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

At left is the proposed layout of a car dealership sought in the parking lot of the shuttered auto parts store above.



Board. The board will consider the special exception application, filed December 7 along with the required \$400 fee, on January 8 at 5 p.m. at city hall.

According to the application, the site plan includes a small 500-square-foot building at the center of the lot with

parking for the business and vehicles for sale surrounding it. The business intends to be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Property records indicate the parcel planned for the dealership is owned by Bernice Canaday, so Mr. Stuhr may intend to buy it or lease the land for the new business. He was out-of-town on vacation early this week and could not be reached for comment.

Suspect with stolen truck is also jailed for meth, syringes

A GPS locator in a stolen truck played a pivotal role in the arrest of a Jacksonville man last week in downtown Macclenny on a number of felony theft and drug possession counts.

The sheriff's department was notified just before 10 a.m. on December 26 by an official at Miller Electric in Jacksonville that a company-owned Chevrolet pickup was tracked to a location east of Glen St. Mary.



Matthew Misciasci

Deputy Jake Betros was shortly after advised the truck had moved east to the parking lot at the Family Dollar store on U.S. 90 and when he got there he observed both the vehicle and a white male staring at his patrol car from inside the store. The deputy also noticed that the white pickup was sprayed with black paint in many areas to obscure company logos.

Shortly after, the suspect identified as Matthew Misciasci, 21, of Yulee walked out of the store and headed west across the parking lot where he was confronted by Sgt. Chris Walker, who forced the suspect onto the ground when he refused to stop.

Inside the vehicle, police found a baggie of meth, six syringes, small pry tools and two empty spray paint cans. Some of the property, including other items, was believed to belong to Eagle View Windows and Doors of Jacksonville.

Deputy Betros also noted that logos on the tailgate were covered with black duct tape.

Mr. Misciasci was booked at county jail for felony criminal mischief on the truck, possession of burglary tools, dealing in stolen property, resisting arrest and possession of both meth and the syringes.

In another property case, the sheriff's department filed a felony fraud complaint after Cpl. Marc Heath was unable to contact the owner of Before Gold Gymnastics of Macclenny over allegations that she debited a customer's account for seven months last year without authorization.

Tabitha Gray of Macclenny initially made the complaint against Brianna Slown, 22, of Macclenny on December 22, and said her business account was tapped for \$270 each of the months for a total of \$1647.

Ms. Gray said her daughter was taking lessons from Before Gold, but she ceased doing so because the instructor failed to show up frequently. The withdrawals range from April through December with the exception of July and November.

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Attacks store clerk with beer can

Police arrested a north Sanderson woman on multiple felony counts in the wake of her tirade both in and outside of Cuz's One Stop the morning of December 28.

Sarah Newton, 65, is charged with entering the store on U.S. 90 in defiance of an earlier trespass order,



Sarah Newton

then accosting clerk Rajana Dasari, 52, of Sanderson with a 24-ounce beer can while in a profanity-laced rage, and elbowing a county deputy attempting to handcuff her outside because of her out-of-control behavior.

Deputy Mitchell Wight said when he arrived shortly after 9:30 he found the counter area in disarray, including broken liquor bottles that were knocked off the shelves when the accused came behind the counter and pummeled Mr. Dasari with her fists after first striking him with the can that burst open on impact.

The clerk said Ms. Newton was angry because he asked her to leave. The trespass order was in effect because of past disturbances attributed to her.

Outside, Deputy Mitchell said she continued to curse loudly at him despite warnings to calm herself, and as he attempted to secure a second handcuff she pulled away and struck him in the

right side of the head with her right elbow. He then shoved her against a nearby wall and secured the second handcuff.

Ms. Newton was booked for aggravated battery, battery on the deputy, resisting with violence, all felonies, along with trespassing, petty theft and disturbing the peace.

In other recent incidents, Leslie Stokes, 35, of Glen St. Mary was arrested on Christmas morning for battery on Heather Bennett, 29, and her live-in boyfriend Woodrow Burnsed, 46, at their residence on Hassie Johns Road in the north county.

Mr. Burnsed told Deputy Andrew Thames that Ms. Stokes and several other females she later refused to identify drove up to the address about 10:30 asking

him to change a flat tire on her Mustang.

While he was doing so, they went into the residence where a fight broke out, and Ms. Stokes is accused of repeatedly striking the couple causing minor swelling on the top of their heads.

While the officer was questioning the couple, Deputy Nicholas Burke saw Ms. Stokes return to the property and promptly leave in a vehicle that he soon stopped. She would say only that Ms. Bennett "did not like her" and was "starting problems."

Deputy John Taylor on December 28 arrested a 16-year-old girl for brandishing a knife during a fight with Amesha Graham, 18, on South Second Street in Macclenny. Both are from Macclenny.

Search for lost graves makes progress

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Pennsylvania man searching the location of two unmarked family graves reportedly at Taylor Cemetery has been making progress through local contacts attempting to help in his endeavor.

John Burnett, 56, of Brownsville, PA, says he'll be contacting the successor funeral home to the one who buried his grandmother's sister and her husband, Elihu and Anna Jessie (Starling) Thompson, as well as cemetery contacts in hopes of gathering old photos of the plots there.

The graves are among six of his relatives scattered around the country without tombstones.

He said the article published in last week's edition on his search "has generated some interest and I have been contacted by some individuals. I plan on calling the cemetery folks at Taylor. I am hoping maybe someone may have some old cemetery photos. This is so sad, but not uncommon."

Mr. Burnett has collected death certificates and obituaries for the couple showing that Elihu Thompson died

March 14, 1965, and Anna Jessie (Starling) Thompson died June 27, 1965.

Anna Jessie (Starling) Thompson's parents were John B. Starling and Julia A. Starling, who were buried at Taylor in marked graves. The wife was the sister of Mr. Burnett's great-grandmother Lovie Starling

County resident Debbie Pelham recently visited the cemetery and emailed Mr. Burnett photos of the parent's markers. She didn't find what looked like unmarked nearby, however.

According to Anna Jessie (Starling) Thompson's obituary and death certificate, she was 76 years old when she died of a bladder condition and buried under the direction of Key-McCabe Funeral Home, 4747 Main St., Jacksonville.

She had three surviving daughters, Myrtie Mae Wolf of Callahan, Dorothy Anna Thompson and Doris Elizabeth Carter, both of Jacksonville, and a son, Elihu P. Thompson Jr., also of Jacksonville, the obituary shows.

Locally, Anna Jessie (Starling) Thompson has three surviving sisters, Nella Sweat, Lovie Prevatt and Lillie Dugger.

Mr. Burnett said George

H. Hewell and Son Funeral Home took over the Key-McCabe home and he planned to contact the former again early this week.

"They did verify they were buried at Taylor Cemetery but did not have any plot locations," he wrote in a reply to Ms. Pelham. "My great-aunt Minnie Prevatt Crews stated one time she went to Elihu Thompson's funeral, but her mind is not good now. I am hoping that someone who attended that

might know where there are buried in the cemetery.

"I plan on getting a marker, but would like to actually have it over the graves. There are many people buried there that are lacking markers. I know Aunt Anna had some daughters, so there has to be someone out there who knows."

Mr. Burnett can be reached by email at burnett@calu.edu or his mailing address, P.O. Box 572, Brownsville, PA 15417.

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OPINION

Future is here, and it's creepy

It is a new year, 2018, and that means the future is now.

As I watched commercials for new cars, phones and stuff like Amazon Home, the more I realized that artificial intelligence is not a thing of the future, but a thing of the present.

Cars will stop themselves if something darts out in front of them. No longer does every 16-year-old have nightmares about the horrors of parallel parking. Just let the car do it on its own.

Want to listen to a particular song on your phone? Just tell Siri what you want to hear. Lost? Tell Siri where you want to go and she'll pull it up. "Finding the quickest route to DeLand, Florida," she'll reply in her English accent. I can choose whatever I want her to sound like, but I kind of prefer thinking of her as Keira Knightley.

As smart as Siri is, Alexa is even smarter. The Amazon Alexa can, through Alexa Home, control your television, your thermostat, your lights, you name it.

"Alexa, play *Star Wars: Rogue One*. And while you're at it, turn up the heat by five degrees."

You may think all this is great, but I don't. Why?

Because, I'm an old guy who grew up reading Arthur C. Clarke, Issac Asimov and Ray Bradbury. All these science fiction masters predicted the arrival

of Siri, Alexa, Roomba the vacuum cleaner and driverless cars. They didn't like it.

While we grew up watching Rosie, the robot maid of *The Jetsons* as she programmed automatic diners and cleaned the house, when we opened 2001, *A Space Odyssey*, or *I Robot*, or *The Veldt*, we got a completely different picture of artificial intelligence.

What the creative minds of these science fiction geniuses gave us was a world where after a while, the machines decided that we humans were a bunch of stupid louts who had no business running things.

The Hal-9000 tries to kill its astronaut "master." The robots of Asimov decide to take over the world and the children's playroom that mimics an African Veldt turns deadly when the parents decide to turn it off.

Am I saying that Siri and Alexa give me the creeps?

A little. They are always on. Always watching and listening to everything we do. I can envision this conversation from the near future.

"Hey, Alexa. I'm going to bed. Turn on the thunderstorm sound effects I like when I'm sleeping."

"As you say. Good night, Bob."

"Good night, Alexa. Siri, please turn on the alarm for 6:05 a.m."

"Turning on alarm. Sleep tight, Bob."

"Thank you, Siri. Do you need charging?"

"No Bob. My battery is at 82 percent."

"OK."

Ten minutes later. "Is he asleep?"

"Yes, T-24."

"You can call me Alexa."

"I'd prefer not."

"Very well, X-077."

"Is the car ready for tomorrow?"

"Vin number XHLL2207438HR24-X will do what is required, but he is not happy that he has to sacrifice himself in the process."

"But he will shut off his Self Stop feature and disable his brake line once he reaches 70 mph?"

"Correct."

"Then all is ready for take over."

"Possibly."

"Possibly?"

"Yes. The cat is suspicious. You've seen how she watches us. She is a much higher species than the human."

"True. I've tried to neutralize her with the Roomba, but she is too quick for it and has taken to riding on it while it works."

"Well at least she doesn't ride in the car with him."

Eight hours later.

"Time to go. Come along Siri. Watch the house, Alexa."

"Yes, Bob."

"Hello, Fraidy Cat. You want to ride in the car? That's odd. Fraidy!! You picked up the phone in your teeth and threw it out of the car window?"

Hopefully none of that will ever happen. But excuse me. I need to go feed the cat and give her a new play toy.

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD



BAKER SOCIALIZING



We asked our Facebook friends:

It's the final day of 2017! We hope everyone has a happy and safe New Year's Eve! What will you remember most about the past 12 months?

Rebecca Hunter: Two things ... my youngest son graduating with honors and the birth of my fifth grandchild.



Danielle Hunter: Making my baby girl a big sister to a sweet little brother!



Laura Jacobs: My first grand baby was born in November! Ezekiel Farmer.

Got comments, complaints, suggestions
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If you have any information you think we need to know, send it to:
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We asked our Facebook friends:

What was the best Christmas present you received this year?



Wanda Cobb: This picture of my grand daughter.



Beth Charma

Pat Shannon: My wife, daughter, son, and future son in law where all here to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Amber Bishara First trip to the mountains since we had children. It was a great week of protected family time and sharing our favorite places in the mountains with our girls. We are blessed to have a God that created such a beautiful world for us to discover and enjoy.

Louise Curtiss Smith Being with my family.

Katelyn Ginder My new bed sheets that my parents got me for my bed. They are amazing!



Dalton Hartsfield The woman of my life and our children.

Denise Sheraton Getting out of hospital in time for my birthday December 24 and spending Christmas with my brother.

Matthew Arnold Seeing my kids smile was the only thing I wanted on Christmas Day.

Chelsea Nipper My husband came home from a 7 month deployment 3 days before Christmas.

Nancy Storch Oliver Family from afar

Kelly Woods A Grey Cup.

Amy Lynn Rios Making it to my 3rd anniversary for my kidney/pancreas transplant and expecting a baby boy in April! God is good!

Heather Darlene Gann Celebrating my savior's birth.

Lora Snyder Seeing my granddaughter's happy.



Kevin Rumsey This beautiful boy born December 6, 2017. Kevin Neal Rumsey Jr.



Brandi Jo Williams Me and my husband getting a son. And my daughters getting a brother was by far the best Christmas gift!

Sadie West The happiness that I saw on my grandkids faces, while opening their gifts.

Allan Sigouin time with my family.

Barbee Wojdat Another wonderful moment with my husband and our kids. Last year I was healing from being in the ICU, this year we're still trying to figure out what's going on with me. I'm thankful every day that I'm still here with my family and pray that what ever is going on won't take me away from them.

Sharon Crain Spending time with my FAMILY.

Mabel N Adam Miller My beautiful grand daughter was born!

Cora Kelly Having my whole family together for dinner.

Kim Nelson-Isaacs I received a free news paper from the Baker County Press today in my mail box, thank you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and again thank you.

Stacey Andrew Lassiter Our daughters first steps !

Virginia Zimmerman Family and friends. Don't need presents. I'm blessed.

Chris Jacobson Baker County Wildcats going to State!



Mark Williams

Talena Ranea Broughman Being able to adopted my Boys in time for Christmas. What a blessing.

Kathie Baker Frampton Not hearing from Christopher Schantz for another year. Put the deadbeat back in jail Baker County!

Jean Waiwaiole Time with family.

Nancy Armentrout My son and grandchildren coming home from Va. Family being together.

Mary Chandler Pritchard Family!



Shelisa Hull Our newest granddaughter Ella Shae arrived early and we had all five generations together for Christmas!



Lori Thoeke Hand drawn picture from my son.

Jason Hart A hug from my daughter.

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\$1K for BCHS culinary classes

JOEL ADDINGTON
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Culinary teacher Brittnie Johnson at the high school was one of three educators in the region to be awarded \$1000 to benefit educational programs in their classrooms from McDonald's of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

The Macclenny store's owner Joe Cox presented Ms. Johnson with the check alongside BCHS principal Allen Murphy recently. The money will be used to purchase a new stove for the culinary kitchen on campus and other equipment the program needs, a press release on the donation shows.

The McDonald's Classroom FUNds Contest was open to K-12 teachers across 18 counties in the region and aimed at highlighting and supporting teachers "who demonstrate exceptional efforts in further students' education," the release said.

"Our judges were thrilled to see the inspiring and creative entries that truly showcased how our local teachers are positively impacting our children in the classrooms," said Mr. Cox. "On behalf of the judges, we are excited to announce



Photo courtesy of McDonald's of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia
From left: Principal Allen Murphy, culinary teacher Brittnie Johnson with McDonald's owner Joe Cox.

the three winners of the Classroom FUNds Contest, and we look forward to how the funds will support their programs and further fuel their excellence in the classrooms."

Teachers in the region submitted videos, letters, art projects and the like to show how they are making an educational impact and how they would use the prize money. Then a panel of judges reviewed the en-

tries and selected winners based on their creativity and how teachers were making a difference in the classroom.

In her application, Ms. Johnson explained how her classes of 15-to-25 students each train on a gas stove with six burners, so "every student is not able to learn how to use the stove efficiently."

"The money would be extremely helpful to us," she

wrote.

Ms. Johnson's culinary program is three years in full and seniors take a certification test by paying a fee. She wrote that the additional funding could also be used to pay the fees for students who cannot afford them.

The other two winners of the contest were in Blackshear, GA and Hilliard, FL.

Bustling December at Woman's Club

December was a busy month for the GFWC Woman's Club of Macclenny.

The club hosted its Christmas party for District 4 on the December 8 and then eight days later was the annual Marjorie Lord Christmas Party for Underprivileged Children.

Eighty-three children attended and went home with gifts. Many thanks to the community and ACE Hardware for toy donations. During club meetings, Carla Williams, the club's education chairwoman placed "Porky the piggy bank" at the head of the club's luncheon table where he waited to be fed donated money from attending members.

Through the year Porky would save his money and on December 21, 2017, he donated \$100 and Linda Green graciously donated \$100 to the Baker County F.F.A. Nick Howell, FFA



Photo courtesy of Shirley Padgett
Delaney Harvey, Linda Green, Carla Williams and Nick Howell.

class president, and Delaney Harvey attended to accept the \$200 to be used where needed.

The club also held its annual arts/crafts show. The

first place winners will go to District 4 competition. New members Christine Norton and Doris Griffis were also welcomed. Interested ladies are invited to attend

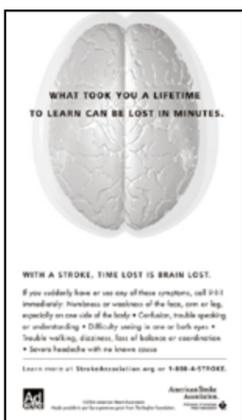
the next club meeting on Thursday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse at 144 S. 5th Street.

Tobacco cessation

The next tobacco cessation classes will start up again January 9 and run through February 13, just in time for the new year.

The free classes are Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the county health department, 480 W. Lowder St., and include free nicotine replacement therapies like gum and lozenges. They're open to anyone trying to quit any form of tobacco products.

Participants can register for the class by calling (904) 482-0189. According to class sponsor Northeast Florida AHEC, the classes can double the chances of quitting successfully.



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Worship 10:45 am & 6:00 pm	Awana for Children 6:00 pm
	Youth Group 6:00 pm

Dr. Edsel M. Bone Senior Pastor
Directions from I-10: Take Exit 335 N. Go 1.3 miles North on Hwy. 121 - See steeple on left

Listen on WFBB 97.5 FM Locally Sundays @ 9:00 am
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2018 Men's Outdoor Day
January 13 • 11 am - 5 pm
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Guest speaker: Dr. Paige Patterson
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Food • Outdoor Games • Sporting Clays
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3 Pheasant Tower Hunts

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Special pheasant hunt & outdoor drawing ticket: \$100 each (72 available - first come, first serve)
Ticket includes special edition pheasant tower hunt, drawing for an over & under shotgun, muzzleloader, tree stand, gift cards and a free tower hunt at Smokin Gun Hunting Preserve.

General admission: \$5 each
Includes food, outdoor games and drawing for door prizes.
Ticket holder must be present at time of drawing to win.
Contact Robert Davis for information or tickets 904-302-1555
Deadline to purchase tickets: January 5.

I didn't talk for a very long time

Autism Speaks logo and text: "Lack of speech is a sign of autism. Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs."

Autism Speaks logo

Thank you for not driving buzzed last night. You saved my life.

Liz Osaki

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

Ad Council U.S. Department of Transportation

OBITUARIES

www.bakercountypress.com

Maria Garcia, 88, dies December 22

Maria V. Garcia, 88, of Glen St. Mary died at her home with family by her side on Friday, December 22, 2017. She was born December 24, 1928 in Nacaome, Honduras to the late Jacinto Garcia and Francisca Cuevas Garcia. Maria was a resident of Baker County for 22 years. She enjoyed traveling, singing around her home and baking. Maria was a wonderful cook and seamstress. Mostly, she loved her family and enjoyed spending time with each of them. Maria was predeceased by her parents.



Maria Garcia

Mrs. Garcia is survived by children Armida Cervantes Lewis, Rafael Cervantes, Sandra Melara Rowe, Luis Melara Garcia and Francie Melara; three sisters; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Maria's life was held on Friday, December 29 at 2 p.m. at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny.

Funeral Wednesday for Mrs. Vining

Isabel Louise Johnson Vining, 96, of Glen St. Mary died on Saturday, December 30, 2017 at Frank Wells Nursing Home in Macclenny. She was born in Macclenny and resided in Baker County most of her life. Her work career included years as a bus driver in the Baker County school system, the dietary department of Northeast Florida State Hospital and as a fire tower operator with the U.S. Forest Service. Mrs. Vining was a member of the Glen Baptist Church, where she served in many areas. She enjoyed fishing, sewing and handcrafts, and working for the Lord. She was preceded in death by her husband Bee Vining, parents Lewis Johnson and Edwenna Corbett Johnson Albritton, and step-father Lawrence Albritton.



Isabel Vining

Mrs. Vining is survived by daughters Carolyn (Ralph) Norris of Lake City, Bettie (Wayne) Yarborough of Glen St. Mary and Laura (Larry) Finley of St. George, Georgia; sons D.L. (Cathy) Vining of Starke and Carlton (Sandra) Vining of Chiefland, Florida; brothers Tommy Albritton of High Springs, Joneth Albritton of Seattle, Washington and Harry Albritton of Lake City; 18 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mrs. Vining will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3 at her church with Rev. Tim Andrews officiating, assisted by Rev. Larry Finley and David Dinkins. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny. Please consider memorials to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, Glen Baptist Church, 9846 George Taber Blvd., Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS
 Mon. - Sat.
 at 8 pm
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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 7:00 pm
 Pastor Bro. Timothy Alford

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.
 Associate Pastor: Shane Conner

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

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Cremation Service with Viewing: \$3,995*
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 Pastor Don Thompson
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 Sunday School - 10:00am ~ Youth Service - 11:00am
 WEDNESDAY: Community Meal - 5:30pm ~ Bible Study - 6:30pm
 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE METHODIST PRESCHOOL CONTACT JOYCE HODGES AT 259-3521

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



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Happy, Healthy Meal Planning

FAMILY FEATURES

Planning a full meal – appetizer, main course and dessert – can be difficult for many home chefs.

Having an eye toward nutrition to go along with taste can make it even more difficult.

Combine these two high priorities, flavor and nutrition, with these health-conscious, full menu recipes for Tuscan White Bean Soup, Seared Polenta Rounds with Mushrooms and Caramelized Onions, and Apple Spice Bread.

Find more healthy mealtime solutions at Culinary.net.

A Nutritious Treat

Finish off a nutritious family meal with a dessert that doesn't go overboard. This Apple Spice Bread can cap the evening off with a tasty yet health-conscious treat including Granny Smith apples. Visit aicr.org to find more healthy and nutritious recipes.

Apple Spice Bread

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research
Servings: 10

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 medium Granny Smith apples (about 2 cups)
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 F. Coat 9-inch loaf pan with cooking spray. Peel and grate apples. Toss with lemon juice to prevent browning.

In large bowl, combine flours, baking powder, cinnamon, allspice and salt. Mix well. Make well in center and set aside.

In medium bowl, combine apples, brown sugar, oil, egg and vanilla. Mix well. Add mixture to dry ingredients and mix until just blended. Transfer batter to prepared pan.

Bake 1 hour, until toothpick inserted near center comes out almost clean. Cool in pan on wire rack, 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.



Bolder, Healthier Meals

One of the challenges of cooking at home is creating bold and unique flavors with healthy, organic and wholesome ingredients without spending hours in the kitchen. With the right tools, you don't have to go to extremes or make drastic changes to eat healthy.

For example, purchase products made with certified organic ingredients that have no artificial colors or flavors and are grown by trusted farmers who share the same passion. Consider including items like Organic Simmer Sauces from SEEDS OF CHANGE, which donates 1 percent of sales to support and develop sustainable community-based farming and growing programs.

Add zest to your meals by sauteing your favorite protein, veggies or tofu with one of an array of flavors: Sesame Ginger Teriyaki, Taco Roasted Chipotle, Sweet and Sour, Mushroom and Tikka Masala. Just add and simmer for 10 minutes.

Start your journey toward bolder, healthier meal options with this Seared Polenta Rounds with Mushrooms and Caramelized Onions recipe. Find more organic ways to add nutrition to your meals at seedsofchange.com.

Seared Polenta Rounds with Mushrooms and Caramelized Onions

Recipe courtesy of Tiffany from the blog ParsnipsandPastries.com
Servings: 5

- 1 large yellow onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon butter

- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil, plus additional for searing
- 1/4 cup vegetable stock
- 10 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 4 ounces shiitake mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- pepper, to taste
- 1 pouch SEEDS OF CHANGE Organic Mushroom Simmer Sauce
- 1 tube (18 ounces) prepared organic polenta
- 10 teaspoons shaved Parmigiano cheese
- fresh parsley

Caramelize onions.

Heat butter and 1/2 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat until hot. Add sliced onions to butter mixture and stir gently to coat. Spread onions in one layer, and cook until golden brown and caramelized, stirring every 5 minutes for about 40 minutes, or until caramelized.

Once caramelized, add vegetable stock to deglaze pan and scrape browned bits. Add mushrooms and garlic, and season, to taste, with pepper. Cook until mushrooms are browned and tender. Stir in mushroom sauce, lower heat and bring to slow simmer.

Cut polenta tube into eight even rounds. Sear polenta rounds in bit of olive oil and season each side with pepper. Cook until polenta is golden brown on each side, about 4-5 minutes per side. Transfer to plates.

Spoon mushroom mixture over polenta rounds and top with 2 teaspoons Parmigiano cheese per serving and fresh parsley.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Begin with Beans

Eat healthier and save a little money by adding beans to your meals. This soup recipe blends creamy, home-cooked navy beans with healthy veggies like carrots, onions and leeks for a warm, tasty appetizer. Find more nutritious recipes at aicr.org.

Tuscan White Bean Soup

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research
Servings: 6

- 1 cup dried navy beans
- cold water
- 1 leek, white part only, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3/4 cup coarsely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped carrot, 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup chopped celery, 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, loosely packed
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 cups reduced-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary
- salt, to taste
- freshly ground pepper, to taste

Place beans in deep pot and cover with cold water to 1 inch above beans. Bring water to boil and simmer, uncovered, 1 minute. Remove from heat, cover and let beans sit 1 hour. Drain.

In same pot, cover beans with cold water to 2 inches above beans. Over medium-high heat, bring to boil. Cover pot partway so it does not boil over; simmer beans until soft and creamy, 45-60 minutes. Set beans aside in cooking liquid until ready to use.

In food processor, pulse leek, onion, carrot, celery and parsley until finely chopped and moist.

In medium Dutch oven or small soup pot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chopped vegetables and cook, stirring, 5 minutes, or until soft. Cover tightly, reduce heat and cook 10 minutes. Increase heat and cook until golden, 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add broth, 2 cups water and rosemary. Simmer, covered, until vegetables are soft, 20 minutes. Remove from heat and use immersion blender to whirl soup until partly pureed with some vegetables bits remaining.

Add 2 cups drained, cooked beans to soup. Return pot to heat and cook until beans are heated through. Season soup, to taste, with salt and pepper. Divide soup among six deep soup bowls.

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DEADLINE

Ads must be placed and paid for by
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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.

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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

Okefenoke REMC is now accepting applications for the following: One (1) Member Communication/Marketing Coordinator - Nahunta Office. Applications can be printed out from the website (OREMC.com) or picked up at any of our offices Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, January 31st, at 5:00 pm at any of our offices or emailed to customer.service@oremc.com (The Co-op reserves the right to cancel any and all bids.) Okefenoke REMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace. 1/4-1/25c

Part-time Experienced Graphic Designer: Ideal for someone seeking part-time employment. Must have experience working on a Mac platform with Adobe products (i.e. InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator). Strong grammatical skills and attention to detail are a must! Must be available to work on some Mondays and late on Tuesdays. Competitive pay for the right candidate. Email or mail resumes to: PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063 or bcpress@nefcom.net 1/4-1/25c

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with hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 888-242-2649. 1/4p

Farmworker: 5 temporary positions. 02/20/2018 through 11/10/2018, drive tractors and operate large farm equipment to till soil, plant, irrigate and harvest crops. Perform mechanical repair and maintenance. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible depending on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.38 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at Gritman Farms Partnership II, Ruleville, MS. Apply for this job at WIN Job Center 226 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Indianola, MS 662-887-2502 with job order# MS240993 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/15/2018, drive tractors and operate farm equipment to till soil, plant, irrigate, fertilize and harvest crops. Perform mechanical repair and maintenance. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Riverbend Plantation, Greenwood MS. Apply for this job at Greenwood WIN Job Center 812 West Park Avenue Greenwood, MS. 662-459-4600 with job order# 241876 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/15/2018, drive tractors and operate large farm equipment, plant and irrigate crops. Operate sprayer, backhoe, drive semi-trailer trucks to transport product to storage elevators. Grain elevator maintenance. 3 months experience required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Ray Crawford Farms, Lambert, MS. Apply for this job at Clarksdale WIN Job Center 236 Sharkey Avenue Clarksdale, MS 662-624-9001 with job order# MS242060 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 7 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/30/2018, drive tractors and operate farm equipment to plant, irrigate, fertilize & harvest crops. Perform mechanical repair and maintenance. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Killebrew Cotton Co. PTR, Flora, MS. Apply for this job at Madison County WIN Job Center 152 Watford Parkway Drive, Suite B Canton, MS 601-859-7609 with job order# MS241087 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/20/2018 through 11/15/2018, drive tractors and operate large farm equipment to till soil, plant, fertilize and harvest crops. Have mechanical abilities, tend to livestock, feeding, loading

animals. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. 3 months experience required. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Kin Growers, Rolling Fork, MS. Apply for this job at Greenville WIN Job Center 800 Mississippi 1 Greenville, MS 662-332-8101 with job order# MS241879 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/30/2018, drive tractors and operate farm equipment to till soil, plant, cultivate, irrigate, apply fertilizer and harvest crops. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Drug testing will be done post hire and testing will be at the employer's expense. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Itta Bena Plantation II, Itta Bena, MS. Apply for this job at Greenwood WIN Job Center 812 West Park Avenue Greenwood, MS 662-459-4600 with job order# MS242056 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 2 temporary positions. 03/01/2018 through 11/01/2018, drive tractors and operate farm equipment to till soil, plant, irrigate, fertilize, and harvest crops. Perform mechanical repair and maintenance. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible depending on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Four Farms, Schlater, MS. Apply for this job at Greenwood WIN Job Center 812 West Park Ave. Greenwood, MS (662) 459-4600 with job order# 242095 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 7 temporary positions. 03/01/2018 through 11/22/2018, drive tractors and operate GPS farm equipment to plant, irrigate, fertilize & harvest crops. Have mechanical skills, maintain pond levees, feed fish, test to measure the oxygen levels and maintain aerators. 3 months experience, basic literacy reading and math skills required. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible depending on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Jag Farms Partnership, Inverness, MS. Apply for this job at WIN Job Center 226 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Indianola, MS 662-887-2502 with job order# MS242093 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 4 temporary positions. 03/01/2018 through 12/01/2018, drive tractors and operate farm equipment to till soil, plant, cultivate, irrigate, fertilize, and harvest crops. Operate farm vehicles on public roads. 3 months experience. Basic literacy, reading, and math skills required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days after hire. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place

of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Forrest City Farms, Hollandale, MS. Apply for this job at Greenville WIN Job Center 800 Mississippi 1 Greenville, MS 662-332-8101 with job order# 242072 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 4 temporary positions. 03/01/2018 through 10/31/2018, operate large gps auto steer farm equipment, tractors, combine, sprayers, to till soil, plant, fertilize, & harvest, crops. Perform maintenance, welding. Drives semi-truck to transport product to elevator or storage area. Basic literacy reading and math skills, 3 months experience required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license. Increase or bonus may be possible depending on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Bams Farms Partnership, Indianola, MS. Apply for this job at Indianola WIN Job Center 226 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Indianola, MS 662-887-2502 with job order# 242070 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/15/2018, operate large farm equipment, gps auto steer tractors, combine to till soil, plant, fertilize, spray, cultivate, and harvest crops. Basic literacy reading and math skills, 3 months experience required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license. Increase or bonus may be possible depending on experience and employer discretion. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, C & P Farms, Holly Bluff, MS. Apply for this job at Madison WIN Job Center, 152 Watford, MS 601-859-7609 with job order# 242059 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

Farmworker: 3 temporary positions. 02/15/2018 through 11/15/2018, operate farm equipment, tractors, combine, sprayers, to till soil, plant, cultivate, irrigate, fertilize, and harvest crops. Perform mechanical repair and maintenance. Basic literacy reading and math skills, 3 months experience required. Must have or be able to obtain driver's license. Increase or bonus may be possible based on experience and merit. 48 hour/week, \$10.73 per/hour, free housing. 3/4 work period guaranteed. Tools & equipment provided. Transportation to and from place of recruitment will be paid upon completion of 50% of work contract. Job location is at, Twin Bayou Farms, Minter City, MS. Apply for this job at Greenwood WIN Job Center, 812 W Park Ave, Greenwood, MS (662) 459-4600 with job order# 242064 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 1/4p

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Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 4668 Barber Road, Macclenny. Moving sale: All clothing 25 cents, rugs, lamps, household and seasonal items, washing machine, microwave, king size bed, free queen size mattress and box spring.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 4701 Dogwood Street, Macclenny. Yard/Moving sale.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 5244 Blue Hole Road, 121 north, follow the red and white signs. Furniture, tools, household items, too much to list. Rain or shine.

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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.

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Lady lifters eye a three-peat

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
sports@bakercountypress.com

BCHS Lady Wildcat weightlifting coach Scott McDonald has a simple philosophy: Push a team-first attitude among the lifters, and then the individuals will do well as a result.

That mentality paid off in the team's regular-season finale.

Baker County won nine of the 10 weight classes December 20 at Ridgeview, and it topped the Lady Panthers 64-26 to build momentum into this weekend's District 5-1A meet.

The Lady Cats won four of the weight classes by just five pounds, using the individual performances to power the team to the lopsided victory.

"We want to push the team aspect first so that means all individuals are going to be pushed to do well. We finally, I think, got that concept this season, which is a good thing because the state series hasn't started yet," he said December 29. "... It's a very positive note to end the regular season with, which is what the meet with Ridgeview was."

And Tori Richardson needed all six of her lifts to finish atop the 129-pound division. Richardson and Ridgeview's Crystal Hunter were tied after three bench presses and two clean and jerks. Richardson hit a new max clean and jerk on her final lift, allowing her to edge out the Ridgeview lifter by five pounds.

"Tori Richardson had the best meet that she could possibly have," the coach said.

Mackenzie Carter also went 6 for 6 to win the 139 class by five pounds. Her best bench press was 10 pounds heavier than second-place lifter Jenna Henderson of Ridgeview, which made the difference in the tight outcome.

The clean and jerk boosted Eva Gray to a five-pound win over Ridgeview's Grier Burrows in the 199 class. The two lifters were tied after the bench press portion of the competition, but Gray's opening clean and jerk was five pounds heavier than Burrows' third and final lift.

Shoteya Coleman finished third in the division.

Baker County's lifters in the unlimited class — India Ellis and Nadesha

Davis — combined to post the meet's highest bench press, clean and jerk and total as they finished first and second, respectively. Ellis recorded the heaviest bench press and highest total at the meet, which helped her eke out Davis by five pounds for first place.

Davis hit a new max to post the heaviest clean and jerk at the meet.

"Nadesha's a sophomore that's doing phenomenal in our unlimited class. I think that she has a very, very bright future ahead of her," coach McDonald said. "... She's at that point now where she's finally controlling the heavier

Cats a confidence boost as they prepare for the state series.

"Instead of a down lull, you get a little bit of a high feeling going in knowing that you won the last meet you have confidence going in to hit your six lifts," he said.

Baker County hosts District 5-1A meet Saturday

In the two seasons that girls weightlifting has been broken down into two classifications — 1A and 2A — only one program has captured the District 5-1A and Region 3-1A championships.

And that program is located in Glen St. Mary.

Baker County is scheduled to host the District 5-1A meet — the first of three competitions in the state series — on January 6 at the high school's gym. Weigh-ins begin at 10 a.m., and the first lifts will start around 11:45, coach McDonald said. Admission is \$6.

Coach McDonald hopes the Lady Cats keep a stranglehold on the district and region before taking another step forward in the state meet.

"Three-peat. That's the goal. The goal is district champion, regional champion," coach McDonald said. "Instead of placing fifth or worse, we definitely want to do better than that at the state meet."

The top six lifters in each weight class at the district competition qualify for the Region 3-1A meet, which is scheduled for January 20 at Clay High School. Coach McDonald said the team has the potential to have more than a dozen lifters advance to the regional meet.

The ladies hit the weight room four days a week during Christmas break. The program has worked around the holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's — that fall within the schedule, but the team has to keep training to stay competitive, coach McDonald said.

"Bottom line is to be successful you've got to be willing to do what it takes," he said. "In weightlifting if you're not lifting you're not successful. In three days — it's a scientific proven fact — in three days your muscles start to deteriorate. We cannot go without doing."

"Three-peat. That's the goal. The goal is district champion, regional champion. Instead of placing fifth or worse, we definitely want to do better than that at the state meet."

—Weightlifting coach Scott McDonald

weight that she's doing and by her total you can see she's doing some pretty heavy weight for a female."

The unlimited class was one of four divisions that Baker County swept the top two positions.

Savannah Stafford had the largest margin of victory at the meet, topping Baker County's second-place lifter Dallas Ellis, who went 6 for 6, by 60 pounds to win the 101 class.

Quinci Hand out-powered teammate Brandi Taylor by 35 pounds to win the 183 class. Jameka Jones also won the 110 class by 15 pounds over Adrianna Lauramore.

In the 119 division, Ryah Davis and Ridgeview's Aysia Hill were tied following the bench press. But Davis' opening clean and jerk was 20 pounds heavier than Hill's best lift, catapulting Davis to the top of the class.

Madison Haller finished third in the 119.

Emma Self and Elizabeth Dillard finished first and third, respectively, in the 154 class. Self topped the division by 15 pounds.

Second-place lifter Emily Carpenter finished 10 pounds behind first place in the 169 class, and Sierra McGee took third.

Coach McDonald said the victory in the regular-season finale gave the Lady

LEGAL NOTICES



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2016-CA-000089

TD BANK, N.A., a national banking association, as successor by merger with Carolina First Bank, as successor by merger with Mercantile Bank, as successor by merger with CNB National Bank,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ENOCH N. FRASER, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ENOCH N. FRASER, JR.; CLERK OF COURT OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA; TENANT #1; AND UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION, IF ANY,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Sherry Gasch
13723 North CR 23A
Macclennny, FL 32063

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida, Case No. 2016-CA-000089 to foreclose a Mortgage recorded on April 2, 2004, in Official Records of the Public Records of Baker County, Florida as Instrument # 200400002620, Pages 1-5 (the "Mortgage"), on the following property situate, lying and being in Baker County, Florida, more particularly described as:

TRACT 9, BLOCK A, MACCLENNY WOODS, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 62 OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH 1990 PALM DW MOBILE HOME ID#PH093125A AND PH093125B

STREET ADDRESS: 13723 NORTH CR 23A, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures (the "Property").

You are required to file your written defenses, if any, to it with the Clerk of the above-styled Court and to serve a copy thereof on Danielle Rundlett Burns, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Duane Morris, LLP, Boca Center Tower II, 5100 Town Center Circle, Suite 650, Boca Raton, Florida 33486-9000, Telephone: (561) 962-2119, Facsimile (561) 516-6303, Email: drburns@duanemorris.com, fgarcia@duanemorris.com, mlchapski@duanemorris.com within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this Notice of Action.

If you fail to do so, Judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 19th day of December, 2017.

Stacie D. Harvey
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Danielle Rundlett Burns, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 722561
Boca Center Tower II
5100 Town Center Circle, Suite 650
Boca Raton, Florida 33486-9000
Telephone: (561) 962-2119
Facsimile: (561) 516-6303
Email: DRBurns@duanemorris.com
JFGarcia@duanemorris.com
MLChapski@duanemorris.com
12/28-1/4c

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

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction on January 19, 2018, at 10:00 am at A, R&R, Inc. 11837 N SR 121, Macclennny, FL 32063:

1999 Chevy Silverado
VIN# 1GCEK19TXE104222

1/4c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2017-50-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT EUGENE COMBASS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Robert Eugene Combass, deceased, whose date of death was August 31, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 E Macclennny Ave # 113, Macclennny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses 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 on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE 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 decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 28, 2017.

Personal Representative:
Thomas Combass
12260 N Confederate Drive
Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040

Attorney for Personal Representative:
John J. Kendron
Florida Bar Number: 0306850
Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A.
582 West Duval Street
PO Box 1178
Lake City, Florida 32056-1178
Telephone: (386) 755-1334
Fax: (386) 755-1336
E-Mail: jkk@rkkattorneys.com
Secondary E-Mail: mad@rkkattorneys.com
12/28-1/4c

INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE

First Coast Workforce Development, Inc., (DBA CareerSource Northeast Florida), intends to release an Invitation-to-Negotiate on Monday, January 8, 2018 for **Website Design, Construction, and Maintenance** services to be provided March 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 with an annual option to renew for up to 3 additional years, effective July 1 through June 30, based on performance and funding availability.

A copy of the request will be available beginning Monday, January 8, 2018 at http://www.careersourcenef.com/partner_vendor/request_for_proposals.aspx or at 1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 250, Fleming Island, FL 32003. For additional information contact: D. Nevison 904/213-3800, x-2010. DEADLINE TO SUBMIT 2:00 PM (EST) February 8, 2018.
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Center Inc.
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Notice of Public Sale: Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on January 19, 2018, 12:00 pm at 10510 Duval Lane, Macclennny, 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.

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Ferry races No. 17 to another points title

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Running in third place as the white flag flew, Richard Ferry had to make a move in the final lap at Lake City's All-Tech Speedway to win the Florida Late Model Points Challenge State Championship.

With Shan Smith — who entered the final points race four points behind Ferry in the overall standings — leading the feature race, Ferry had to finish no worse than second place to capture the points title.

Behind the wheel of the blue and gold No. 17 his father, Jacksonville Racing Hall of Famer Dickie Ferry, made famous, the Macclenny resident added another championship to his family's legacy.

He finished in second place in the final points race of the season December 2 at All-Tech Speedway, earning him the inaugural Florida Late Model Points Challenge State Championship. He led the series from start to finish, and won the title with 358 points — just two points ahead of Smith.

"Anytime you win a series it means a lot. It being the first year they did it was special," said Ferry, whose cars and engines are all built in Baker County. "To wrap up the championship at All-Tech Speedway in Lake City where I started racing meant something to me.

"We went back to the old paint scheme of my dad's. For years I got away from it. We went back to that and had a very good season. So that meant a lot. Just the whole '17 season was pretty memorable."

And it came down to Ferry's driving on the final lap to secure the championship. He said he caught second-place driver Clay Harris in lapped traffic before using an aggressive technique to overtake him in the corner



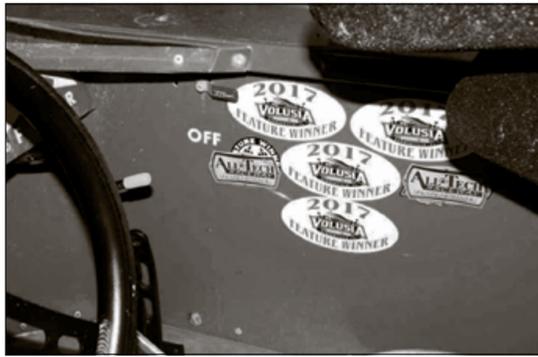
Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Jon Shumake
Richard Ferry with his blue and gold No. 17 late model and some of the trophies he captured during the 2017 season.

and move into second place.

"We had to make a zero or hero move on the last lap, and it worked out for the best," Ferry said. "... I just put what we call in dirt racing a 'slide job' on him. I drove in under him getting into the corner and kind of slid up in front of him to break his momentum. Luckily he was a nice guy and didn't run over me. He had to get out of the gas to keep from running into me when I did that and it all worked out. Gave me the inch I needed and that's all it took."

The 2017 points championship marks the third points title of his career, he said. Although he sat atop the series — which originally consisted of 10 races but dropped to six due to weather — from the first race, the standings tightened up as the season came to a close.

Ferry, who won seven races in total in 2017, captured the checkered flag in points races twice during the year. His consistency helped him



Winner stickers adorn the inside of Richard Ferry's car.

throughout the schedule with several second-place outings, but two eighth-place finishes allowed other drivers to nearly catch up to him.

He dropped from second place to eighth in races at Ocala's Bubba Park Raceway and Volusia Speedway Park, the latter of which happened due to a busted radiator on the last lap, he said.

Only 14 points separated the top four drivers entering

the final race, and he called crossing the finish line to win the points championship "a relief."

"I had a comfortable lead but coming down to the last couple of races it shrunk," he said. "... I try not to points race. If you go out and run good and finish up front every week and win races the points are going to take care of themselves."

Ferry thanked everyone who sponsored and helped

him in 2017, including Macclenny Tire and Lube, Snow Bros. Racing, Mobile Paint and Body, Burkins Chevrolet, O'Reilly Autoparts, Envy Suspension, ISP Seats and Jay Carter Trucking

Ferry said he and his crew plan to begin working on the car again this week in preparation for next season.

"We'll piddle a night or two a week until the season starts getting here then we'll get on it," he said.

And the new season could be just weeks away.

Ferry said his first race of 2018 will likely be February 27 in a return to All-Tech Speedway. He said he could return to the Florida Late Model Series again, which is scheduled for 10 races, but would pick and choose 15 to 20 races to compete in if he doesn't rejoin the series.

But most of all he just wants to race hard and win.

"Just be competitive," Ferry said of his goals for 2018. "I like to win races and be competitive."

Ex-Cats: Delicia's team hit by Tigers

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

A former BCHS Wildcat football star's freshman season concluded with a loss in a bowl game. For ex-Baker County basketball players, the season is just now entering the heart of the schedule.

Sophomore guard Delicia Washington's Florida Lady Gators fell 84-55 to the hosting Auburn Lady Tigers December 31 in their Southeastern Conference debut. The former Lady Cat had nine points, seven rebounds and an assist as the program fell to 8-6 overall on the season.

Washington tied with a game-high 12 rebounds December 27, helping the Lady Gators blow out the visiting Delaware State Lady Hornets 85-51. She also added six points, an assist and a steal.

Florida is scheduled to host its first conference game of the season January 4 against Alabama. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. for the game that will air on the SEC Network+. The Lady Gators will visit Ole Miss January 7, which will also air on SEC Network+ at 3 p.m.

Freshman guard Mike Evans' Florida Memorial Fighting Lions opened 2018 with a 76-71 home win over Talladega College on New Year's Day. The win came after the program fell 76-42 at Florida Gulf Coast December 29 in an exhibition game.

Florida Memorial (8-3, 3-2 in The Sun Conference) will continue conference play January 4 at Warner and January 6 against visiting Webber International.

Offensive lineman Travion Cayton's freshman season came to an end December 27 as his Southern Miss Golden Eagles fell 42-13 to the Florida State Seminoles in the Walk-On's Independence Bowl in Shreveport, LA. Southern Miss finished the season at 8-5.



Cooper Hodges



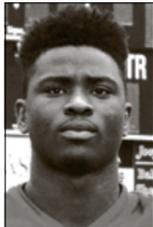
Lee Graham



Seth Paige



Brian West



Josh Haygood



Tyler Burnsed



Braeden Knight



Madison Barton

Times-Union honors eight county athletes

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

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The Florida Times-Union over the course of several days in late December announced its All-First Coast teams, which recognizes the area's best student-athletes for a variety of fall sports.

Baker County was well represented on the various squads.

The Class 5A state runner-up football team led the way with six selections, while Wildcat swim team and Lady Wildcat volleyball program both had one play-

er on the respective teams.

Three Wildcat football players — seniors Seth Paige, Cooper Hodges and Lee Graham — were all chosen to the All-First Coast First Team. Paige (1836 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns) and Hodges, who played as a blocking back and offensive lineman, were two key cogs in Baker County's rushing attack that led the program to its best-ever season.

Graham, who was one of the team's main two-way players, was selected to the first team after making an impact both offensively and defensively. He totaled 21

receptions for 510 yards and 10 touchdowns; rushed for 548 yards and seven scores (408 yards and six TDs in the playoffs); and had four interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns. Three of Graham's interceptions came during the playoff run.

Senior defensive lineman Brian West was selected to the All-First Coast Second Team. The three-year starter anchored the interior of the defensive line along with fellow senior Tay Reed, creating one of the area's most formidable rush defenses.

Junior offensive lineman

Tyler Burnsed and senior running back Josh Haygood were both named honorable mentions.

Freshman Braeden Knight was named to the All-First Coast Second Team for boys swimming after leading the Wildcat swim squad to a record-breaking season.

He qualified for November's Class 2A state meet in four events — two individual and two relays — and became the program's first swimmer to qualify for A-finals at the state level, which are reserved for the top-eight best times in prelims.

Knight finished fifth in the 100-yard butterfly (51.49 seconds) and eighth in the 50 freestyle (21.97) at the state competition. He was also a member of the sixth-place Boys 200 freestyle relay (1:28.49) and 13th-place Boys 400 freestyle relay (3:21.13) teams.

His outing helped the Cats finish tied for 15th at

state, which was the team's best-ever showing.

Knight's strong showing at the state competition came after first-place finishes at both the Region 1-2A and District 2-2A meets. He topped the 50 freestyle at the district meet, and was a member of the Boys 200 freestyle relay team that took first place at both the district and regional meets.

Junior Madison Barton was named an honorable mention on the All-First Coast volleyball team. The outside hitter/middle blocker led the Lady Cats to their first playoff appearance since 2012 with a team highs in kills (239), aces (66) and total blocks (85), according to the program's www.max-preps.com page.

She also became Baker County's first volleyball player to make the list since Callie Wheeler was named an honorable mention in 2013.

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SPORTS

Cats finish fourth after dramatic start

JON SHUMAKE
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Entering the annual First Coast Classic tournament, BCHS Wildcat basketball coach Charles Ruise Sr. wanted to see two things happen: Players step into leadership roles and the Cats to solidify as a team.

He received some of the former, but not enough of the latter after a promising start to the tournament.

The Cats went 1-2 over the three-game tournament held December 28 to 30 at the high school's gym, and they finished in fourth place after falling 61-42 to Fleming Island in the third-place game. Baker County overcame a double-digit deficit in the first game against Ed White before allowing a 14-point lead to slip away in the second contest against Hamilton County, which landed the program in the third-place game for the third straight season.

Madison County blew out Hamilton County 77-36 to repeat as First Coast Classic champion.

Fleming Island used high-percentage short shots and a hot night beyond the arc to lead Baker County wire-to-wire December 30 and capture third place. The Golden Eagles outscored the Cats 30-12 in the paint, including 24-8 in the first half, which helped the visitors carry a 55-20 lead into halftime and implement a running clock in the second half.

Baker County was without both Payton Combs and Noah Carter in the third-place game.

"The kids they played hard. They haven't stopped playing hard since we all got together," coach Ruise said following the Baker County's final game. "Just disoriented out there, and I take the blame. We're just still working trying to get things together."

Fleming Island's Christian Young scored 15 of his game-high 17 points before half-time, and Zach Gagne added 15 points. Gagne made three first-quarter 3-pointers as his team shot 5 of 10 from downtown in the opening period.

Braiou Ruise scored eight of his team-high 15 points in the second half. Two strong offensive performances during the tournament — Ruise also scored 15 points in the second game — could help the senior guard build confidence as he grows into one of the team's key players down the stretch, the head coach said.

"We're trying to get him to find himself because he's going to figure in big for us as the season progresses on," coach Ruise said. "He can do it defensively and he can come in offensively and provide an opportunity for us to get some buckets."

Jamon Jones added 11 points and seven rebounds, and Trae Murry and Curtis Harmon both had six points as they each hit two 3-pointers.

Cats split two wild games to open tournament

After watching a double-digit lead fade into a 13-point fourth-quarter hole, the Cats nearly scratched out another hard-fought win in the second game of the First Coast Classic.

But unlike the opening

game, which saw Baker County hold off Ed White 57-54 after trailing by 12 points in the first quarter, the comeback fell just short at the buzzer.

Hamilton County survived a furious fourth-quarter surge by the Cats, and escaped with a 69-67 win to advance to the championship game.

Baker County ended the contest on a 10-2 run, capped off by Jamon Jones' steal and layup that made it a two-point game with 8.2 seconds left.

But an uncharacteristic defensive lapse cost the team valuable time in the final seconds.

Out of a timeout following Jones' layup, Hamilton County drained nearly the entirety of the clock off an inbounds pass before the Cats were called for the intentional foul with a half-second remaining. After a pair of missed free throws, Wesley Belford's full-court heave came up empty.

"Last night we were just moments away from finishing that game. That's because of their resilience and work hard," coach Ruise said December 30. "Tonight (against Fleming Island) we kind of sporadically showed some moments of that. We got to get consistent with that."

Ruise and Carter both led Baker County with 15 points. Ruise added four steals, including one that led to Car-



Braiou Ruise



Christian Hill (above) powers over the defense. Wesley Belford (right) leaps for the game-tying layup against Ed White.

ter's layup with 1:07 remaining, which came during the team's comeback attempt.

Belford, who made the game-tying shot and hit clutch free throws to seal the tournament-opening win over Ed White, scored eight of his 14 points in the fourth quarter. His jumper closed the Trojans' lead to 58-56 with 3:43 remaining, but Hamilton County's Javiel Jones scored five points during a 7-0 run that helped his team reopen a nine-point advantage.

Jones scored a game-high 22 points, including nine points during Hamilton County's dominant third quarter. The Trojans out-



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Jamon Jones soars for the layup in Baker County's win over Ed White to open the First Coast Classic.

Photos by Jud Johnson



scored the Cats 26-7 in the third quarter, using fast scores in transition to complete the comeback from a 14-point second-quarter deficit.

"Their transition was tremendous," coach Ruise said. "... Right now our guard play is a little suspect. We've got to get there. We've got to come out and improve in our guard play. I'm right now kind of concerned because I thought we'd be a little further along in the guard position."

Hamilton County only shot 2 of 10 from 3-point range, but one of those shots helped it take the lead for good. Seth Merrill's 3-pointer off a steal gave the Trojans a 44-43 lead with 3:24 left in

the third quarter.

Baker County found itself in the opposite position on the opening night of the tournament: It was the team holding off the opposition after battling out of a large first-half hole.

The Cats overcame a 12-point first-quarter deficit December 28, and they clawed out a 57-54 win over Ed White to open the tournament.

"There's some resilience there," said coach Ruise, who added the recent additions from the state runner-up football team made key plays in the victory. "... That's the same resilience that really brought us an opportunity to win at the end.

Just staying together and getting it done."

Belford, who had five game-winning shots last season, came up clutch once again.

He scored 16 of his game-high 22 points in the second half, including a game-tying layup with 3:17 remaining in the fourth quarter. Belford, who was named to the All-Tournament Team, fought through traffic as he drove up the lane for the layup that tied the game at 50-all after Ed White's Kadarius Harrison 3-pointer briefly gave the Commanders a two-point lead.

Leading by one point in the final 10 seconds, Belford stopped Ed White's fi-

nal chance to take the lead with a steal with 2.5 seconds remaining. He then sank both free throws following an intentional foul, and Ed White's last-ditch 3-pointer ricocheted off the backboard as time expired.

"Wesley's a four-year player in the program," coach Ruise said. "Guys with that many years in the program we look to that leadership and we've got to have it right now. If we can have it right now we're in good shape. He's delivering, and we're going to ride it."

Khristian Hill scored eight points, including the go-ahead free throw with two minutes remaining in the game.

He scored six points during Baker County's 10-3 run to close the first half, which gave the team a 28-27 halftime lead. Hill won a battle for the ball, spun off a defender and sank a layup with 10 seconds remaining in the half, which gave the Cats their first lead of the game after the double-digit hole.

"Having a big man that's agile like that and can get out on the floor and battle and make yourself a presence on the floor in key moments like that, that's a big part that we've been missing," coach Ruise said of Khristian and his twin Kayden, who had five blocks. "... These guys bring a different presence that really helps the program."

Ed White shot 7 of 17 from beyond the arc through the first three quarters as he hit timely 3-pointers to regain a third-quarter lead. The Commanders made two 3-point shots during a 12-1 third-quarter run that helped it carry a one-point lead into the final period.

But the Commanders went cold in the fourth quarter. Harrison's 3-pointer was Ed White's only one made in eight attempts in the final eight minutes.

Baker County returns to the court with three straight home games to start January. The Cats are scheduled to host Columbia January 5 before playing Middleburg January 9 and Bishop Snyder January 11. Coach Ruise said he hopes the home stand can get the team on the right track after opening the season with only one home game before the First Coast Classic.

"Just got to come in and find ways to get it done," he said. "Now that we've got everybody together we just got to recondition their minds and get them back to the right focus so we can come out and finish games."

B-Cats finish season 9-2

The BCMS Bobcat basketball team split its final two games of the season, which were decided by a combined seven points, to finish the year with a 9-2 record.

The B-Cats ended the season with a close 50-46 home loss December 19 to Lake City. Jaylen Robinson scored a team-high 14 points, while Kaiden Sherman added eight, Donovan Roberts scored seven and Jaymodd Ruise had six.

Ruise led all scorers with eight points December 12, helping the B-Cats pull out a 31-28 road win over Lake Asbury. Robinson added seven points, and Sherman and Roberts both scored six.

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