

Mayoral memory
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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

88TH YEAR | VOLUME 46

MARCH 8, 2018

AT A
GLANCE

► **THINGS TO DO**

MARCH 8

BCHS Lady Wildcat softball vs Atlantic Coast
6:30 p.m.
Baker County High School

MARCH 9

BCHS Wildcat baseball vs Fort White
4 p.m.
Baker County High School

The BCBS Wildcat baseball team hosts Fort White. The JV team plays at 4 p.m. and the varsity game follows at 7 p.m.

MARCH 10

Baker County Little League opening day
9 a.m.
Knabb Sports Complex
490 North Boulevard
Macclenny, FL 32063

Baker County Little League celebrates its 50th year with an opening day ceremony.

Nature photography workshop

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Award-winning and widely published nature photographer, John Reed, will conduct a Spring Nature Photography Workshop at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. "March

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George Peterson chat
See page 9



4 straight wins for Cats
See page 14

Alleged school shooting threat

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Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com
Baker Prevention Coalition's (from right) executive director Lea Rhoden, board member Kaila Givens and coordinator Taryn Rackley at BCBS last week with more than 100 donated prom gowns.
Photos by Joel Addington

Playing prom Fairy Godmother for young ladies

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

BCBS junior Cheyenne Brown selected a two-piece, baby blue prom dress hanging on the rack and tried it on. The bright color caught her eye because she thought it would look great against her darker skin tone. To test the fit under real-world conditions, she danced in it for a bit and was sold on the dress.

The best part — it didn't cost her a penny.

Ms. Brown walked out of the high school cafeteria the afternoon of March 1 with the gown in hand and no less money in her pocket thanks to the generous donations from First Baptist Church of Macclenny and high school teacher Stephanie Wheel-

er. Organized by the Baker Prevention Coalition, which has storage capacity for the more than 100 dresses, the prom dress giveaway last week, which included shoes and accessories, followed another bazaar at the Woman's Club on February 25. In all the charity gave away 25 prom dresses during both days, said coalition executive director Lea Rhoden.

"Some of these are \$500 dresses with the tags still on," she said in between lunch periods at the high school when students perused the inventory and tried on the gowns in the nearby restroom.

Students Hannah Crawford and Carsyn Griffis volunteered to assist during the first event at the Woman's



BCBS juniors Macy Combs (left) and Cheyenne Brown display their prom dress picks.

See page 2

Nursery pond searched Tuesday

Near where Broadus Jr. was killed

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement served a search warrant March 6 at the Southern States Nursery property where more than a month ago a Jacksonville man was fatally shot three times in the head.

According to the family of the victim, 31-year-old Dominic Jerome Broadus II, his cell phone wasn't recovered from the scene of the February 3 shooting although his charger was.



Aerial view of the search on Tuesday at a pond on the Southern States Nursery property.
PHOTO BY WJXT/NEWS4JAX.COM SKY4

The heavily-redacted incident report released the week after the shooting by the Baker County Sheriff's Office lists a firearm, presumably the gun used by Gardner Kent Fraser, 29, to kill Mr. Broadus.

His body was found outside the rear

of a residence on the ground of the sprawling nursery property.

The search Tuesday appeared to be focused on the pond at the property, according to live video shot by the News-4Jax.com (WJXT) helicopter SKY4. A dive team from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was at the scene.

WJXT reporter Vic Micolucci said he was ordered off the property that day by Mr. Fraser's father, Ryan Fraser, a retired Baker County sheriff's officer.

Gardner "Gar" Fraser was ques-

See page 2

40-year sentence for fatal shooting

The second of two defendants charged with serious felonies in the shooting death of a Margaretha man last June was sent to prison for 40 years on February 27 after entering a no contest plea to second-degree murder.



Antonio Lee

Antonio Lamar Lee, 33, of Margaretha had earlier indicated he would enter the plea for shooting Victor Givens Jr., 20, in the head during a fracas that began earlier the night of June 16 outside a Sanderson liquor store and moved several miles east to Margaretha.

Mr. Givens, a former BCBS standout athlete, had reportedly moved into the line of fire attempting to diffuse the conflict.

Mr. Lee, a convicted drug dealer who served two years in prison ending in 2007, pulled a gun during a fight involving his brother Leonard Lee, 35, and Jeffrey Woods of Jacksonville.

The elder brother was sentenced a week earlier to 42 months after entering a lesser plea to felony battery by a repeat offender for kicking Mr. Woods in the head while he was on the ground. The blows resulted in a serious injury.

It was the first homicide in Baker County since 2009.

In other sentencings by Circuit Judge James Colaw that day, Jared Fama, 26, of Glen St. Mary admitted to violating probation for



Jared Fama

multiple burglaries of vehicles in 2015 and will serve a 20-month prison term.

Court records indicate the defendant violated terms of his probation by testing positive for the presence of marijuana,

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Don't forget to go vote ...

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33% None of the above	30% Local TV news	15% National news	11% Locals newspaper
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Search: JSO dive team

From page 1

tioned by police the day of the shooting but was not arrested or charged with any crime.

The sheriff's office turned the investigation over to the state agency to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest given the alleged shooter's father's connection to the local department, said Sheriff Scotty Rhoden two days after the incident.

Mr. Broadus' vehicle, his father Dominic Jerome Broadus Sr. said, was turned over to Higginbotham's Towing-Recovery in Glen St. Mary.

When Mr. Broadus Sr. picked up the vehicle after paying the more than \$300 storage fee, he said there was no evidence it had been processed for evidence by law enforcement, like fingerprint dust on door handles or the like.

The father, the victim's mother, activists from Miami, Jacksonville and Washington, D.C. and local residents have expressed concern about the integrity of the investigation, initially at the scene by county deputies and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

FDLE hasn't released any significant details about what may have happened the afternoon Mr. Broadus Jr. was shot and killed, citing the active ongoing investigation.

Mr. Broadus Sr. said last week during a town hall meeting in Macclenny he was unable to get a death certificate for his son because the medical examiner's autopsy report with the cause of death has been withheld from the family.

They say the Fraser family, meanwhile, has deep roots in the community and they're concerned the investigation may not lead to any charges against Gardner Fraser.

The name of a third person listed on the report released by the Baker County Sheriff's Office after the shooting was redacted and remains a mystery to those outside the investigation or not involved in the incident itself.

Major Randy Crews of the sheriff's office recently declined to comment on the reason

for the redaction other than to say, "There's no there there, there's no conspiracy to it ..."

He went on to say the unidentified party was not present during the shooting and thus should not have been listed on the report.

FDLE did not provide a copy of the search warrant as of press time, despite receiving a request for it about noon Tuesday.

Sheriff Rhoden said FDLE served a search warrant at the property that day, but he didn't know what the agency was looking for.

The search early this week came a day after the assistant state attorney's office at the courthouse in Macclenny was flooded with phone calls from local residents, activists and others demanding State Attorney William Cervone in Gainesville charge Gardner Fraser with the murder of Mr. Broadus Jr.

According to the script for the calls, they also asked the state attorney to petition the FBI's public corruption division to investigate the Baker County Sheriff's Office "as it relates to procurement of evidence and nepotism" within the local department.

"It's very encouraging," Mr. Broadus Sr. said of the support. "I know my son is smiling."

Activist Bob Schlehuber of Washington, D.C., who helped organize the initial town hall meeting in Macclenny February 20 and the calls, said the concern about nepotism stems from the towing company's name, Higginbotham, matching that of a county deputy.

He also said he received information anonymously that Gardner Fraser was employed at Northeast Florida State Hospital, but resigned after he was investigated for patient abuse.

The Florida Department of Children and Families, which manages the state hospital, has not responded to multiple requests seeking Mr. Gardner's personnel file and any disciplinary information from his time there.

Mr. Broadus was also allegedly unemployed at the time of the shooting after being laid off by PRI Productions in Jacksonville, Mr. Schlehuber said.



Students hunt for prom dresses at BCHS on March 1.

Photo by Joel Addington

Prom: 25 dresses placed

From page 1

Club, dubbed "Say Yes to the Dress."

"It was nice to see girls helping each other and I think it made [the dress hunters] feel more comfortable," said Ms. Rhoden, who intends to repeat the give-aways next year.

In addition to the prom dresses, the coalition is also sponsoring prom evenings for 14 lucky contest entrants and their dates. The non-profit coalition aimed at

combating substance abuse among local youth is donating the prom tickets, a drug- and alcohol-free "party bus" and dinner at the Woman's Club.

Students just had to fill out a brief survey online, which among other questions asked about what their ideal drug-free Friday night would entail. Some of the answers included hanging out with friends talking and laughing without any drama, dinner and a movie, try-

ing on clothes with friends, dancing, going to a bonfire and riding four-wheelers.

Barbara Blackshear of Moonlight Blessings decorated the Woman's Club for the "Say Yes to the Dress" event and Superior Cleaners offered discounts for cleaning and alteration services.

"Two mom's cried," recalled Ms. Rhoden. "It made their day. I definitely didn't expect that. ... The kids were very thankful and appreciative."

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The Baker County Press Weather
March 8, 2018

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Sunny
High: 62 Low: 34

Friday
Sunny
High: 64 Low: 41

Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 72 Low: 57

Sunday
Scattered T-storms
High: 75 Low: 60

Monday
Mostly Sunny
High: 68 Low: 53

Tuesday
Sunny
High: 63 Low: 48

Wednesday
Sunny
High: 66 Low: 51

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Location	High	Low
Jasper	60	34
Callahan	61	36
Fernandina Beach	59	42
Jacksonville	61	39
Atlantic Beach	60	43
Macclenny	62	34
Baldwin	61	35
Watertown	61	33
High Springs	62	35
Starke	62	35
St. Augustine	60	44

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 2/27	77	55	73/45	0.00"
Wed, 2/28	81	55	73/45	0.00"
Thu, 3/1	84	63	73/45	0.00"
Fri, 3/2	77	55	74/45	0.00"
Sat, 3/3	72	37	74/45	0.00"
Sun, 3/4	64	34	74/45	0.00"
Mon, 3/5	73	32	74/46	0.00"

Precipitation: 0.00"
Normal precipitation: 1.23"
Departure from normal: -1.23"
Average temperature: 61.4°
Average normal temperature: 59.4°
Departure from normal: +2.0°

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	6:46 a.m.	6:32 p.m.
Friday	6:45 a.m.	6:32 p.m.
Saturday	6:44 a.m.	6:33 p.m.
Sunday	7:43 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
Monday	7:41 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
Tuesday	7:40 a.m.	7:35 p.m.
Wednesday	7:39 a.m.	7:36 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	6.04 ft.	-0.14 ft.
Macclenny	4.42 ft.	-0.15 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	AM Peak Times	PM Peak Times
Thu	4:46-6:46	5:09-7:09
Fri	5:33-7:33	5:57-7:57
Sat	6:21-8:21	6:45-8:45
Sun	8:09-10:09	8:33-10:33
Mon	8:57-10:57	9:20-11:20
Tue	9:44-11:44	10:08-12:08
Wed	10:31-12:31	10:55-12:55

Weather History

March 8, 1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1,200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, 100 sheep were still alive.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

THINGS TO DO

From page 1

is a wonderful time to photograph at Okefenokee. Winter is on the wane and spring is just around the corner. Cool days with warm sun, and the biting insects aren't yet out looking for their lunch" says Reed.

MARCH 12

BCHS Wildcat baseball vs Palatka
7 p.m.
Baker County High School

MARCH 14

BCHS JV Lady Wildcat softball vs West Nassau
5:30 pm
Baker County High School

MARCH 15

BCMS Bobcat baseball vs Lake Butler
4 p.m.
Baker County High School

BCMS Lady Bobcat softball vs Lake Butler
4 p.m.
Baker County Middle School

BCHS Lady Wildcat softball vs Bolles
5:30 p.m.
Baker County High School

The Lady Cats host Bolles in the District 3-5A clash.

MARCH 16

Community Expo
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Heritage Park Village
Lowder St., Macclenny

Community Expo 2018 will be held on Friday, March 16 with live music, bounce house, games, prizes, photo booth, sno-cones, cotton candy and raffles. Available for purchase: Walking Taco, drink & cookie-\$4, \$3 admission ticket includes bounce house, games and 3 tickets for popcorn, sno-cone & cotton candy. Free transportation for age 60+ & disabled. For more information call (904) 259-9315.

Amplified phone giveaway
12 p.m.-6 p.m.
Heritage Park Village - Community Expo

Visit the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) booth at Heritage Park and see a display of amplified phone equipment available to qualified Florida residents. During the event, FTRI staff will distribute phones and provide training on them. Bring your Florida ID, your hearing aids and cell phone if you have them. FTRI offers a variety of amplified telephones to meet the need of persons with a mild, moderate, or severe hearing loss.

Movie in the Park: 'Justice League'
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Heritage Park Village

The Baker Prevention Coalition is sponsoring a free movie in the park March 16 to screen "Justice League" (2017) at Heritage Park. Gates open at 5 p.m. with the movie starting at 6 p.m.



Longtime mayor honored with plaque

Former Macclenny mayor Gary Dopson (left) shortly after the unveiling of a commemorative tribute the evening of February 26 to his more than 15 years in the top elective post. Joined by family and friends, Dr. Dopson and his brother Gerald Dopson (right), city manager for 43 years, were feted during the early evening ceremony hosted by current city manager Phil Rhoden and assistant city manager Mike Griffis, along with other current employees. Mr. Rhoden noted during his remarks that the brothers were instrumental in key advances made in Macclenny during their tenures, notably an additional 23 miles of water and sewer lines, an expanded and now modernized fire department with 14 current full-time employees and updated equipment, more than six miles of sidewalks and other projects to meet the needs of a growing population. During the Dopson's combined years of service, the city has seen seven mayors and 21 commissioners. Dr. Dopson, a retired physician, resigned as mayor for health reasons a year ago and his brother retired as manager in April, 2013, a position he held since June, 1970. Dr. Dopson was first elected to the five-member city commission in October, 1979. The plaque will be affixed to the outer entrance to City Hall near a similar one honoring his brother.

Student faces felony count for alleged shooting threat

A 13-year old male student at Baker County Middle School was named in a complaint on March 1 for threatening to shoot another student with whom he had been fighting at the end of the school day.

Campus deputy Michael Lagle went to the courtyard shortly after 3 p.m. to see assistant principal Steve Cannon escorting the accused away while he continued to yell. He also quoted two teachers as saying the student said, "I'm going to shoot this b---- up."

The officer said he then found the student refusing to calm himself and pacing back and forth before he denied making the threat and claimed his family didn't own a gun.

The charge is a third-degree felony. In other recent incidents, Jimmy Hudnall Jr., 30, of Glen St. Mary was arrested the evening of March 1 for allegedly striking his wife Dominique Daniels, 31, on the head with a metal cup and pushing her down a ramp to the ground.

Ms. Daniels told Cpl. Marc Heath the accused was intoxicated and several times that day instigated arguments. Mr. Hudnall fled into nearby woods near his residence on Sam Lampkins Lane and was flushed out by a police K-9 shortly after.

Deputy Morgan McDuffie arrested James Carpenter, 65, of Lake City and charged him with domestic battery on girlfriend Shannon Johnson, 45, also of Lake

City, the evening of March 1.

The officer described Ms. Johnson as crying and "extremely intoxicated" when she questioned her outside Burger King on South Sixth Street just before 9 p.m. She had bloodstains on her shirt and said she and Mr. Carpenter argued on Interstate 10 earlier after leaving a Lake City bar headed to Jacksonville.

The accused was found walking aside U.S. 90 west of Sanderson with bloodstained clothing and a laceration to the hand. A criminal complaint was filed against Ms. Johnson, who was treated at Fraser Hospital, for domestic battery as well.

Jeremiah Jones, 35, was arrested the morning of February 28 for aggravated battery on his niece Kehara Reed, 28, who is eight months pregnant.

Ms. Reed told Deputy Andrew Thames she was accosted and thrown to the ground in the yard of her uncle's residence on Quail Lane, an allegation he denied. She had gone there to drop off children at her mother's.

There was no information on the cause of the argument.

Detective Jeremiah Combs filed a complaint the evening of February 26 naming Joshua Teston, 30, of Macclenny as the person who punched Dustin Parker, 30, of Glen St. Mary in the nose during an argument over a missing flashlight.

State trooper injured in scuffle with driver on I-10

A Florida state trooper was hospitalized last week for treatment of unspecified injuries he received at the hands of an intoxicated or high motorist he had stopped for erratic driving on Interstate 10 just east of Glen St. Mary.

Sgt. K.M. Boatright said he drove up on a white van driven by Rodney Lewis, 57, of Hallendale, FL as it traveled slowly west in the passing lane, observing it swerve before speeding up to 85 mph before he pulled it over.

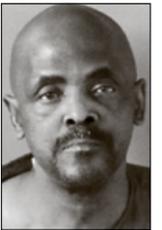
The trooper noted the van's interior had a strong odor of marijuana, and that Mr. Lewis "was not making any sense" during initial questioning. He agreed to field sobriety testing and performed poorly before attempting to strike Sgt. Boatright in the head with his elbow.

The officer said he was unable to take the suspect to the ground, and both wrestled and fell as Mr. Lewis became "very combative," and continued to fight after two taser shots. The struggle then moved to inside the van and the trooper said he pinned Mr. Lewis between the driver and passenger seats while calling on his shoulder radio for help.

Sgt. Patrick McGauley responded shortly after and said he saw only the trooper's legs visible outside the open driver's side door. He released K-9 Monsoor into the passenger side and the dog grabbed hold of the suspect's upper right arm and held it as the deputy pulled Mr. Lewis out of the vehicle using the K-9's harness.

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden by then was on the scene and helped subdue the suspect, who continued to resist while being handcuffed. He was taken to Fraser Hospital and later to UF Health Jacksonville for treatment of the shoulder wound.

Police cruisers from several agencies and both on- and off-duty local deputies converged on the scene in the ensuing minutes responding the Trooper Boatright's frantic call for help.



Rodney Lewis

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Court: VOP for burglary 1.6 years

From page 1

meth and amphetamines. He had served a lengthy term in county jail before release on probation.

- John Stone, 42, of Macclenny also tested positive for drugs and admitted he violated a drug offender probation imposed in late 2015 for credit card theft and fraud. He also failed to pay \$374 in cost of supervision and another \$955 in restitution.

Mr. Stone had a prior conviction for burglary.

- The judge ordered Roman Thompson to serve 18 months followed by a five year drug offender probation for multiple counts of possession of synthetic drugs and opiates with intent to sell.

The defendant, 30, of Macclenny, had a prior record of possession of cocaine and marijuana and sale of pot. He was arrested last November as investigators served a warrant at his residence and found the drugs, a

weighing scale and cash after witnessing a drug deal.

He was ordered to pay \$1675 in investigative costs.

In non-prison sentences that day:

- Baylee Barber, aiding escape of her boyfriend from county jail last November; 100 days in jail, five-year drug offender probation, enroll in and complete Teen Challenge and Thinking for Change courses.

Judge Colaw withheld adjudication of guilt if all conditions are met.

- Stacey Poppell, burglary, grand theft, dealing in stolen property, pawn fraud; 90 days in jail, three-year drug offender probation, \$30 restitution.

- Kenya Giles, forgery, bringing forged bank bills into Florida; three-year probation.

- Johnathon Mann, sentence for earlier jury verdict of negligence; six-month probation, parenting classes, drug/alcohol addiction evaluation.

Haygood is found guilty

Will serve a probation for juveniles

A circuit judge on March 1 convicted former BCHS football standout Joshua Haygood of felony battery last October when he punched a Macclenny man



Joshua Haygood

during a Homecoming week confrontation, breaking his jaw and causing a concussion.

Victim Timothy Fenton, then 21, was one of the prosecution witnesses during

the brief, two-hour non-jury trial before Judge Stanley Griffis. Mr. Haygood, who didn't play in the Homecoming game, played in the team's regular-season finale and opening-round playoff win before missing the remainder of program's run to the state title game.

Witnesses for both the defense and prosecution told of events leading up to and after the incident the night of October 25 on a sidewalk parallel to U.S. 90 in downtown Macclenny.

Mr. Haygood and several other students were engaged in a paint ball skirmish with another vehicle of BCHS students, an activity described at the time as a "tradition" of hijinks related to Homecoming weekend.

One of the balls struck Mr. Fenton's pickup across the road, and he angrily confronted Mr. Haygood, who initially was believed trying to diffuse the situation. According to witnesses, the

defendant suddenly struck Mr. Fenton as he turned his head, sending him backwards unconscious to the concrete where he struck his head.

Mr. Fenton spent two days in a Jacksonville hospital, released with a wired jaw and concussion cautions.

Even though a juvenile at the time, the now 18-year-old Mr. Haygood was charged with felony battery as an adult.

Judge Griffis at the conclusion of testimony declared the defendant guilty, but withheld adjudication of guilt if Mr. Haygood abides by sanctions of juvenile probation that include a 7 p.m.-7 a.m. curfew, attend school, obey his probation officer and pay \$2500 toward Mr. Fenton's medical bills.

The probation lasts as long as it takes Mr. Haygood to comply with all of the provisions.

Stole his mother's livestock

A Glen St. Mary man with an extensive arrest and conviction record dating back more than two decades is charged with the theft and sale of livestock belonging to his mother, who is living at a local nursing home.

William (Clay) Davis, 47, allegedly paid neighbor Wyman Griffis to transport two calves, three cows and a bull to North Florida



William Davis

Livestock Market in Lake City on February 7 and 14, said Detective David Mancini, who obtained records of the sale that totaled \$3402.

The animals belonged to Lou Davis, 72, who along with a daughter was interviewed at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab after filing a complaint with Deputy Andrew Thames on February 28. The livestock was taken from the family farm on Mallie Davis Road, and Mr. Griffis confirmed that Mr. Davis asked him take the animals to Lake City.

He said he was unaware the suspect didn't have permission to do so. The detective also

learned the market issued checks in the name of Mr. Davis.

He was arrested on March 2 for felony grand theft from a person 65 or older and dealing in stolen property.

The suspect has past convictions for offenses ranging from grand theft to trespassing and resisting arrest. He has a pending felony for driving on a revoked license as an habitual offender.

In an unrelated case, three young boys are charged with additional felonies for entering an eighth unlocked vehicle overnight on February 24 and taking \$500 worth of property.

Billy Chauncey reported three days later that his 2013 Dodge pickup parked at his residence on Evergreen Road was entered that night. Two pairs of sunglasses and a knife were among items recovered earlier from seven other victims.

Two of the boys are 11 and the third is 13 years old. All the crimes took place in their neighborhood off Odis Yarborough Road.

- Paul Grainger Jr., 37, of Glen St. Mary was named in a criminal complaint for pawning \$700 in fishing gear stolen last month from Kemp Davis on Gilford Davis Road.

The suspect admitted he did so at the behest of Justin Davis, 46, who was arrested on February 18 for the theft from his brother. Mr. Grainger signed an affidavit that he owned the rods and reels, and he is charged with pawn fraud.

'Music Man' opening March 15

For the past two months the BCHS drama department has been preparing for one of its biggest shows in years. *The Music Man* is a classic musical with all the songs and spectacle you've come to expect from a BCHS Drama musical and runs March 15-18 and 22-25.

It's the story Harold Hill, a charming con man who comes to a small Iowa town to sell band instruments and uniforms. The only problem, Hill knows nothing about music and will skip town as soon as he has the money. However, he runs into a savvy librarian named Marian and against his will, he falls in love.

The Music Man has great classic music like *76 Trombones*, *Marian the Librarian* and the beautiful ballad *Till There Was You*. The film won three Oscars and the play numerous Tony



Jackson Helms and Loriann Bliss as Harold Hill and Marian in "The Music Man," opening next week at BCHS.

Awards.

Reserved tickets in the first four rows are available by calling 259-6286. General admission tickets will

be on sale at the door. You don't want to miss this classic American musical.

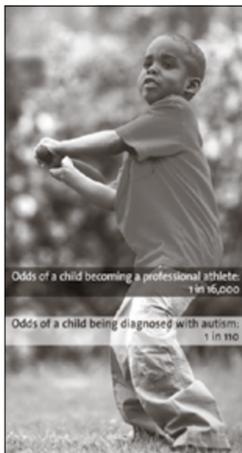
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BAKER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Had access to SSI data Auditors say it was unnecessary

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

While the findings have been addressed, the latest state audit of Baker County school district operations released in January found five employees had unnecessary access to student social security numbers and records proving participation in distance learning classes in the adult education department did not exist for some students.

Social security numbers may be used to commit fraud that can cause financial harm, so public entities like the district are required to take "extra care in maintaining the confidential status of such information," reads the audit report regarding the finding about log-in privileges.

"Effective controls restrict employees from accessing information unnecessary for their assigned job responsibilities and provide for documented, periodic reviews of employee access privileges to help prevent personnel from accessing sensitive personal information inconsistent with their responsibilities," it continues.

When asked for documentation of such periodic reviews, the district could not produce any, saying the reviews were indeed performed but not documented, the audit report shows.

However, of the 22 personnel who had access to student social security numbers in addition to other demographic information, nine of them did not need such access to perform their jobs.

Among the nine, five employees — two district-level personnel, two principals and a vice principal — never needed access to student socials and four needed only occasional access to cover for other personnel during absences.

After the inquiry in November, 2017 access privileges were reviewed and documented and the nine employees' access to student numbers were eliminated.

In the official response to the audit's finding, Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson wrote the district "has made efforts to ensure that only those employees who have a need for SSNs have access" and now "documents and monitors on a weekly basis the IT user access privileges for SSNs."

The only other finding noted regarded documentation of class time in the adult education distance learning program.

The district is expected to document student class time through assignments, tests or

other records.

The audit found, however, that out of 129 students with 3231 instructional hours, which was about 28 percent of all the hours during the fall of 2016, one student's 72 reported hours in three distance learning classes could not be substantiated through documentation.

That led auditors to request additional records to support another 1354 hours of instruction for 15 students, including two enrolled in distance learning classes. The review found that district records did not document student participation in the distance learning classes.

"District personnel indicated that the software used during the fall 2016 semester did not always document student participation for distance learning classes," the audit report reads. "In addition, district personnel indicated that software enhancements were made for the spring 2017 semester to ensure log-in activity is maintained for all distance learning students."

The district receives funding, in part, based on enrollment data reported to the state.

"Controls have been strengthened to ensure instructional contact hours for adult general education distance learning classes are documented and accurately reported to the FDOE (Florida Department of Education)," wrote the superintendent in her January 8 letter to the auditor.

In other school news:

- The school board is set to consider for approval on March 19 new science textbooks for grades four through 12.

The district's director of curriculum Thomas Hill said this week during a school board meeting in Taylor the textbooks may be reviewed online by going to the district's website (<https://www.bakerk12.org/Page/3509>).

Most of the textbooks come from publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

- The board also approved an annual inventory of school buildings, which shows all schools are at, or very near, full capacity.

While nearly all buildings and areas were found to be satisfactory under state standards, a handful of areas were noted as failing to meet the standards. They were largely storage and teacher planning spaces.

Only one appears to be used by students — a roughly 768-square-foot area labeled as "room 32" at Westside Elementary, which was first built in 1976.

COUNTY COURT

February 28 dispositions

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on February 28:

- Freddie Blount Jr., no valid driver's license, non-assigned tag; six-month probation.

- James I. Carter, resisting arrest, disorderly intoxication; attend group addiction meetings, anger management class, mental health evaluation.

- Bradley Crosby, driving on a suspended license (DWLS); failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Chad Flick, DUI; six-month probation, DUI class, \$4000 fine, attend group addiction meetings, abstain from alcohol.

- Debra Lynn Gainey, sale and possession of Suboxone; revoke pre-trial release.

- Marcus Gaskins, DUI; one day in jail, six-month probation, 50 hours community service, six-month license suspension, DUI class, Give Back to Baker (GBB) community service, electronic monitoring, participate in MADD event and addiction meetings, abstain from alcohol.

- Julie Hansen-Everitt, DUI; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Kasie Heafnerr, violation of probation (VOP) for resisting arrest, disorderly intoxication; 180 days in jail.

- Christopher Holland, DWLS, DUI; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Nicholas Israel, possession of drug paraphernalia; six-month probation, GBB, attend group addiction meetings.

- Jason Klinger, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Ann Marie Martin, resisting arrest; six-month probation, anger management class, GBB.

- Jodie Ostrander, VOP

for possession of drug paraphernalia; 90 days in jail.

- Kyle Raulerson, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct; 12-month probation, parenting class, obtain GED.

- Nairobi Apervil, VOP for no valid drivers license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Matthew Lindsey, petty theft, possession of drug paraphernalia; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Timothy Neal, possession of marijuana and par-

aphernalia, DWLS; 52 days in jail.

- Matthew Odom, VOP for battery; 180 days in jail.

- Dustin Sheppard, VOP for marijuana possession; 112 days in jail.

- Ernest Terry, VOP for no valid driver's license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Christopher Thornton, resisting arrest, cause harm to police animal; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Daniel Ward, VOP for DWLS; 37 days in jail.

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Motorist stopped for speeding charged with felony possession

JON SHUMAKE

A Macclenny woman was arrested the night of February 28 for felony possession of marijuana after she gave police a baggie containing 33.5 grams of the drug during a traffic stop for speeding.

Deputy Jeffrey Higginbotham clocked a Chevrolet Cobalt traveling 44 mph in a 25 mph zone on Lowder Street, and stopped the vehicle in the Hodges Produce parking lot.

He noted he "was met by an overwhelming odor of unburned marijuana" when he approached the vehicle to make contact with the 25-year-old driver Mindy Morgan and passenger Heather McGlashan of Glen

St. Mary.

Ms. Morgan immediately handed the officer a plastic baggie containing marijuana when asked if there were any illegal substances in the vehicle, according to the officer's report. Ms. Morgan, who claimed all the pot was hers, also told Deputy Higginbotham there was an ounce of marijuana under the emergency brake in the vehicle and consented to his retrieval of the drug.

In an unrelated arrest, an intoxicated Macclenny man was jailed in the pre-dawn hours of March 4 for disorderly conduct after he continued to cause a disturbance with neighbors despite being told to cease and go inside his residence.

Sgt. Benjamin Ander-

son said he warned Joseph Reed, 29, about revving his vehicle motor and being outside starting verbal altercations with neighbors when he arrived at the scene shortly before 5 a.m. Mr. Reed had a strong smell of alcohol coming from his person, according to the officer's report, and was told to go inside.

Sgt. Anderson drove his patrol car about 100 feet down the road and turned the lights out to make sure the suspect complied. He soon saw Mr. Reed exit his residence and yell at neighbors.

Complainant Heather Davis said she's continued to have problems with Mr. Reed in the early morning hours.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Manager touts 35 finished goals

Urged to be more specific

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Since Baker County officials began setting goals in all departments and implementing strategies to accomplish them, nearly three dozen have been reached and dozens of new ones were presented to the county commission for consideration this week.

"We're very proud. We've accomplished 35 items (goals) this year," County Manager Kennie Downing told commissioners at a "strategic planning and goal setting workshop" Tuesday afternoon.

At the beginning of the workshop the county manager submitted a report itemizing completed goals, including the hiring of a new ranger for the first time in years at Shoals Park, creating a citizen Animal Advisory Committee to recommend

ways to improve animal control services and moving forward with recommendations for improving fire and emergency medical services (EMS) throughout the county.

Ms. Downing's report included more than 100 new goals for the county to strive for in the next three years, including a proposed merger of the volunteer fire department and the EMS department into one agency and constructing a new public safety building in Sanderson to house firefighters and EMS workers together.

The county fire and EMS departments have always functioned separately and been housed in separate buildings. The future plan envisions one department with one chief and an assistant chief in charge.

EMS Director David Richardson also is retiring in 2019 and one of his goals is to have his replacement hired about three months before his official retirement date.

Ms. Downing said strategic planning can provide Baker County "a road map for the future" and will allow the county commission to "know the potential costs of a project and decide when or if it can be funded in the next 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 years."

"We need to know where we are and where we want to go," she said, suggesting the county post mission and vision statements on its website.

For example, she said, the mission could state: "To provide quality government services in a fair, professional and courteous manner.

Services shall enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of those who live and work in Baker County."

Likewise, she said the vision statement could deliver this message: "Baker County is a place of opportunity for all and is a great place to live, work, play and operate a business. We encourage growth while being good stewards of the natural and economic resources."

Generally, the report was well received by commissioners, although some suggested the county manager and department heads revise the list of prospective goals to include more specificity and less generality.

"Let's identify what it is we intend to accomplish," said Commissioner James Bennett during a discussion of road department goals, which included statements like "continue working" on various projects. "Let's be more specific."

One road department goal that captured Mr. Bennett's attention was proposed "update/remodeling" of solid waste collection centers, including repaving and new receptacles.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that this one is on there (list of goals) because right now our collection centers need to be updated and remodeled," he said.

Mr. Bennett also pointed out vagueness in one of two goals for the public library in Macclenny, which stated simply that the library should "establish more community presence."

An explanation for how that might be accomplished would be much more helpful

and beneficial to the county commission, Mr. Bennett said.

Many new goals on the county manager's list for 2018-21 will carry hefty price tags, such as the proposed replacement of roofs on several county buildings next year, including the main administration building behind the courthouse.

Ms. Downing said before any major project begins a cost analysis would be conducted and the commission would decide whether funding is available to proceed.

The human resources department also got Commissioner Bennett's attention with its goal to "get all performance evaluations current" and another to "update all job descriptions and make them uniform in format."

Mr. Bennett said all employees should be subject to annual evaluations as "a routine way of doing business" and all job descriptions should be up to date and accurately state all aspects of a particular job.

"If they don't know what they're supposed to do, how in the world will they know if they're accomplishing it," he said.

Commission Chairman Bobby Steele agreed with Commissioner Bennett, noting that department heads "can't even start an evaluation until they've got a job description."

Ms. Downing will report back to the board later with a revised strategic plan and goals for adoption after incorporating commissioners' comments and suggestions.



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Plant sale to benefit FFA



Some of the pallets of plants for sale at BCHS starting March 9.

The Baker County FFA Chapter will begin their annual Spring plant sale on Friday, March 9 with a variety of tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and annual flowers available. Trays are \$15 each. The sale runs through March 30, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the BCHS agriculture department on the west side of the campus near the ballfields.

Agriculture teacher Tiffany Harvey said the plants and sale will be similar to previous years but the times were moved to later in the day due to scheduling of state tests.

"It is easier to run the sale later in the

morning when myself and students are in class to participate and assist," she said by email this week.

Her five agriculture foundations classes and one horticulture class began planting seeds after returning from Christmas break in January. They began transplanting them in February to prepare for this sale.

"I think it is pretty extraordinary that they have planted seeds, germinated them and then transplanted those plants (around 40,000 plants) in less than two months time," said Ms. Harvey.

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Faith, family key to their success Burnham's business rockets with economy

JIM MCGAULEY

editor@bakercountypress.com

The new and stylishly appointed headquarters of Burnham Construction Company east of Macclenny, graced in front by a giant American flag as it faces the Walmart Distribution Center across the street, has a subdued physical presence on the commercial landscape of Baker County. Except for the flag, it's virtually hidden from U.S. 90 to the south.

Don't be fooled. Burnham Construction has a huge footprint in a multi-county sector of northeast Florida that's among the state's fastest growing.

In what's called the site contracting or site prep business, it's a go-to subcontractor with the region's top home builders.

It's a been a long road for David Burnham, an 11th-grade dropout who started out as an 18-year-old father working for an older brother and driving a road grader, to arrive as a major player in the high-growth residential markets of Duval, St. Johns and Nassau counties.

He might have built the new headquarters closer to the action, but Mr. Burnham, winner of the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year in 2016, wanted it right here in Baker County.

"I'm from Baker County and I want to give as much back to it as I can," he vows.

David Burnham's journey forward got its first boost when at 23 he was promoted to a grader foreman at the former Florida Roads, then six years later to superintendent.

"That's where I learned how to build jobs from the clearing to the walk-through," he says.

That sentence touches on the essence of what Burnham Construction does. Large residential projects begin with land prep from knocking down the trees to digging the retention ponds and moving the dirt around to shore up roadways while digging underground drainage and utility lines and prepping the roads for paving.

And that's just a thumbnail sketch because the technical end is complicated, from competitive bidding to engineering and design to compliance with myriad government agencies.

In December, 2004, Mr. Burnham took the first bold step — he broke away and started his own company "with one other fella."

"Florida Roads hired me back as a sub-contractor and we went into civil contracting (another word for site prep) with four graders and a pipe crew. We opened an office in Macclenny (a duplex behind Macclenny Pediatrics)."

David's wife Verona (he calls her his "rock") quit her bookkeeping job with the school system and joined the fledgling operation where she remains today on the business side of it. The years 2005-08 saw rapid expansion,



David and Verona Burnham

Photo by Jim McGauley



David Burnham inside his headquarters in Macclenny.

more vehicles, more contracts and more employees. They were on their way. Then the bottom dropped out in late 2008.

"Those were our darkest hours," Mr. Burnham recalls. "There was still some commercial work out there, but about 80 percent of it just went away. All the residential contracting came to a halt."

"People still owed us money but they couldn't pay us. I think at one point we had \$70,000 in legal bills trying to collect from them. All of them were struggling too and many paydays we didn't know where it was going to come from. We came real close to losing everything."

"What we needed was a miracle. Everyone wanted me to file for bankruptcy. One afternoon I guess you could say I had a breakdown. I went home early by myself and collapsed in my bedroom bawling. I said 'Help me Jesus.'"

It was then David Burnham said he heard a voice and had a vision he was on a seashore. The voice, in effect, told him that the Lord and his family were the only important things in life, and the worries about the business keeping him awake at night represented nothing more than a grain of sand on that beach.

"I felt a calmness hard to describe, and all that fear was lifted from me," he recalls choking up a bit as he described the scene. "The Lord was telling me, 'Hang in there — everything will be okay.'"

As it turned out, it was gradual but everything did start to be okay.

Not long after, David fielded the phone call that turned things around.

Dupont (now Chemours) was on the other line about a contract for reclamation work at its Trailridge mining operation. With the help of some sympathetic bankers and a fuel broker, Burnham Construction was on the road to recovery — employees were coming back and the equipment was firing back up.

With the new decade came more corporate contracts (including with PCS potash in Columbia County), and when the new home market in prime areas like St. Johns County began to heat up, Burnham Construction was in a position to pounce on the big contracts.

Today the project board at headquarters lists 20 such jobs in various stages of completion, plus others in the all-critical bidding stage. Later this year, Mr. Burnham plans to edge into heavy equipment purchasing rather than leasing, and recently constructed what will be a large service garage on the company's 20 acre tract.

Burnham Construction equipment and just over 100 employees are busy these days prepping large development sites for a "who's who" of companies — KB Homes, AV Homes, Mattamy Homes, DR Horton and SEDA. They are, it can be said, on the "ground floor."

People who know and associate with David and Verona Burnham are aware of the common thread, that they maintain and cultivate a deeply-felt faith in God and His hand in their everyday life. There's the prayers

with staff each morning and something quite unique among businesses — they tithe company profits.

That's right, before giving 10 percent of personal income to the Lord, the Burnhams carve out the same portion of the net proceeds from each project.

"The first portion, that's always reserved for Him," says Mr. Burnham.

He does that as a reminder of who he thanks everyday for bringing him, a one-time single teenage dad with bleak prospects for the future, to where he, his family and employees are in 2018.

And as a reminder of who was with him on the bedroom floor that day.

Jim McGauley can be reached at the above email address or at 259-2400.

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OPINION

County now target of advocacy based on a false template

Here's some thoughts to consider as we await the findings of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on who shot who, and why, on February 3 at Southern States Nursery south of Macclenny.

First, it's a textbook example of template-driven advocacy.

Impressions Jim McGauley

An organization calling itself Peaceful Building Connections based in Washington jumped all over the shooting death of black Dominic Broadus II as a racially-inspired killing reminiscent of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown. There is indeed a link between those two cases that inflamed racial passions nationwide — both the victims forced the reaction that led to their deaths. But that logic was lost amid the hysteria.

Activists from several groups got in on the act following the local shooting, implying without the slightest evidence that the racist Baker County Sheriff's Office was busy covering up for the shooter and white guy Gar Fraser because he was the son of a former deputy, who also shot a black person while on the Jacksonville police force.

Fits nicely, doesn't it? People who think like this see nothing wrong with drawing further incriminating links. For instance, the shooting happened off, of all places, Southern States Nursery Road. Get it?

It could have as easily been Jefferson Davis Court

or Bedford Forrest Avenue. These rednecks are the same, and they like living on streets named after Confederate heroes. Plus, there's a mural hanging at the courthouse depicting the KKK.

How about the obvious link between Deputy Jeffrey Higginbotham of the sheriff's department and Randy Higginbotham of the towing service that bears his name and impounded Mr. Broadus' vehicle after he was found dead with multiple bullet wounds to the head?

How diabolical is that? (They are not related, and it would not occur to the advocates that multiple families of the same surname can exist in an area with either no or a very distant blood relationship.)

Your writer admits to being a bit facetious here, but we all get the point even though our thought processes are stymied through interbreeding and dropping out of grade school.

On a second matter, the sheriff's department is learning the downside of handing off a murder investigation to another agency, in this case the FDLE because of a perceived conflict due to a suspect's father being a retired member of the local force. But when that happens, the local police forfeit any control over how the investigation proceeds, which in this case has become problematic because of the "other" problem (see paragraphs above).

FDLE has many resources and competent agents, but it is a state bureaucracy. It was invited in and will release its findings on its own schedule. Fair enough, but it's presenting a problem for BCSO and Sheriff Scotty Rhoden, that of losing control and appearing (unjustly it would seem) clueless through this whole affair.

Eventually, we'll find out what happened that day. My betting is whatever we learn it will not involve endemic racism fueled by a community steeped in prejudice and policed by a department bent on covering up a crime because the victim is black and the potential shooter is the white son of former employee they are trying to protect.

Will the "advocates" believe that? You guess.

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



Biltmore reflective of the gilded age

It is said that just 1 percent of the population holds something like 82 percent of the country's wealth. Stats like that don't mean a lot until you encounter what that kind of money can buy.

This Christmas, daughter Sara Beth and her husband Aaron gave us tickets to the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC. Last weekend we headed up to see how the other half lives. I can report that the 1 percent live very well.

Back in what was known as The Gilded Age of the 1890s, the top industrialists and socialites all knew each other and tried to outdo one another with conspicuous displays of wealth and power.

At the top of the top were the Vanderbilts. They were shipping magnates, owned vast tracks of timberlands and rubbed shoulders with presidents and the crowned heads of Europe.

They competed with each other by building huge mansions in Newport, Rhode Island and on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

George Vanderbilt owned huge amounts of land in North Carolina. It had made him a fortune and he decided to build his home in the forest around Asheville, NC. He quarried native stone, hired European stone cutters and built a railroad to ferry men and supplies to the construction site.

It took five years and over a 1000 workers to complete. To help with the process, George Vanderbilt bought the town of Best, NC, and renamed it Bilt-

more Village.

The house was copied from the vast mansions in the Loire Valley of France and has native limestone walls. It is furnished with antiques, tapestries and works of art from around the world.

No one really knows what the final price tag was, but it could be as high as \$30 million, which in today's parlance would come out to around \$857 million. A tidy sum.

Vanderbilt would hold lavish parties for up to 400 people from around the country. His social circle included Astors, J.P. Morgan and Andrew Carnegie as well as royalty from all over Europe.

Several movies — *Being There*, *Patch Adams*, *Richie Rich* and *Last of the Mohicans* — were filmed in the house or its surrounding 5000 acres.

I'd been there before but it was 25 years ago, and a lot has changed. It's been given a kind of Disney-fied touch. There are restaurants on the grounds of the main building, lavish hotels on the hills overlooking the building and the winery, where some of the best wines in the United States are produced, has its own petite French village built around it.

What they haven't done is make it really accessible. There are a lot of stairs in the five-story structure and I'm convinced I climbed every one of them twice. It was worth it, of course, but I can see where it could be limiting to some people.

Being at the Biltmore House is a wonderful but head-scratching experience. I am in awe of the amazing attention to detail the workmen and women brought to the house, it's technological advancements and gorgeous art and appointments.

Everywhere you look there are details that nowadays we wouldn't even consider. The furnace vents are a work of cast iron art instead of merely functional louvers. The doors are hand-crafted and the wallpaper embossed or made of expensive fabrics.

The windows open by an ingenious intricate pulley and lever system. The walls on the indoor swimming pool are ceramic tile from floor to ceiling to fight mold. The servants sent food upstairs from the kitchens in the basement via a clever elevator system.

I scratch my head at the ostentatious display of wealth. The phrase "more money than sense" ran through my mind as I looked at the dining room or the master bedrooms.

Eventually, the mansion became too expensive even for the Vanderbilts to maintain and the family moved to more modest homes on the estate in 1958. Since then, it has been a museum, and the last family function was the 100-year anniversary dinner in 1995.

I loved going to the estate and upgraded my ticket to an annual pass. It is a long trip up to Asheville, but I can't wait to see what they do to decorate for Christmas. If you're wondering about a long weekend vacation trip, the Biltmore House is a great choice.

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS



USPS 040-280

Post Office Box 598
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-2400

The Baker County Press is published each Thursday by Baker County Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid under permit issued April 12, 1929 at the post office in Macclenny, Florida.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$25.00 a year inside Baker County; \$45.00 a year outside Baker County; deduct, \$5.00 for persons outside Baker County who are 65 years of age or older, military personnel on active duty, and college students. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Baker County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063.

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

Mr. Peterson returns to Keller campus

Speaks of lifetime in education

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

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Sanderson native George Peterson has been both student and teacher many times in his 92 years but he was more of the latter during a talk about his life at Keller Intermediate School last week.

The venue couldn't have been more appropriate.

Mr. Peterson was among the original faculty members when the school opened in 1956 as an all-black school under the direction of its first principal and Mr. Peterson's mentor James Franklyn Keller, who he described as innovative.

"I believe in those days Mr. Keller could have run the whole county system and been principal," Mr. Peterson told the group of 20 or so attendees of his talk, billed by the Baker County Historical Society as its latest "Fireside Chat" the evening of March 1.

As it was though, Mr. Keller taught sixth through ninth grade, plus art, drama and shop. He was also the cook.

Mr. Peterson started as a math teacher at the school after he earned a bachelor's degree in 1953 from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Florida A&M University or FAMU.

Getting there wasn't easy, however.

"I always wanted to go to school," says Mr. Peterson, the son of a teacher and grandson of a slave and Episcopal pastor. "It was the right thing for me. I loved the school."

Even before the age of 6 — with his mother working and his seven siblings already in school — he tagged along and attended class as well.

"Somebody would always pick me up so I could write on the chalkboard," recalled Mr. Peterson.

The school at that time was known as Brown's Academy, though Mr. Peterson doubts there is any record of it. It was torn down in 1932, when he was in third grade, and rebuilt as a junior high school with Mr. Keller at the helm. Mr. Peterson worked at the school, too, cleaning in the evenings and serving lunch in the cafeteria.

The school board would eventually extend the curriculum to ninth grade but that was as far as Mr. Peterson could go locally.

That led him to move into his sister's home in Starke to attend a black school in



Retired teacher George Peterson, 92, returned to the Keller campus last week for a "Fireside Chat" organized by the Baker County Historical Society the evening of March 1.



Sandi Harvey reads about Macclenny in the early-to-mid 20th Century.

Bradford County with a more advanced 10th-grade curriculum. He then started at the "old Stanton," as he called it, high school in Jacksonville.

Mr. Peterson remembers catching a Greyhound bus in Macclenny to Jacksonville to finish his studies. The fare was 52 cents each way, he said.

"It got kind of tiresome going back and forth every day," said Mr. Peterson, who would eventually move to a house near Edward Waters College where he stayed for \$1 a week, returning to Baker County on the weekends to do laundry.

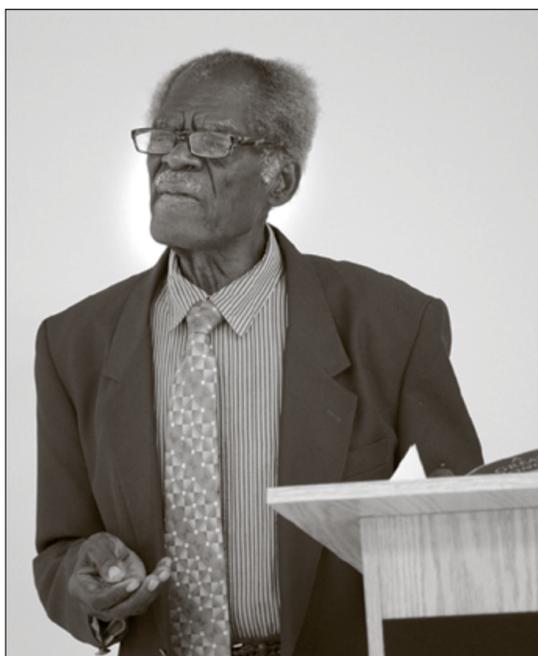
"But I didn't have a room," he said. "The lady had a hallway going from the front door to the back and she had one of those big traveling trunks, if you remember those. She put a mattress on it and I slept there."

Post-World War II, Mr. Peterson was serving in the military in Japan. After his discharge, he returned to finish high school and start college.

During that time he found work with the City of Macclenny digging ditches and installing the city's first utility lines as a part of segregated work crews.

"We could always put down more pipe," said Mr. Peterson, comparing the white and black crews. He remembered a white crew having problems installing a line parallel to the railroad tracks west of 121.

"They couldn't get the pipe in so they got us over there and we put the pipe down in less than an hour,"



Mr. Peterson during his talk at Keller.

he said.

He also recalls one day seeing a boom fall and drive a man's chest through a piling.

"They let us go home that day because it was so tragic," said Mr. Peterson.

Another man, Vince Henderson, reportedly disappeared one day and the story went he was likely buried in the concrete floor of *The Baker County Press* building, which was under construction at that time.

"I don't know. Nobody ever did dig up under there to see," said Mr. Peterson.

He did similar work on sewer lines in Jacksonville Beach before registering at Florida A&M, where he obtained his bachelor's degree and then his master's degree the same year he married in 1960.

In those days he was also teaching math at Keller, the same subject he studied in college at the recommendation of Mr. Keller. He was home for his uncle's funeral when he noticed the school was under construction and his family urged him to apply for the teaching job.

He remained teaching

there until desegregation in the summer of 1971. He would go on to educate future teachers in the Baker County system like the now-retired high school history teacher Duncan Harvey.

"It came time for the teachers to report and everything went fine, just nicely," he said of the fall semester after integration. "It came time for students to come back. You'd be surprised at how nice things went. There wasn't any trouble at all. Until one day someone put a rumor out ..."

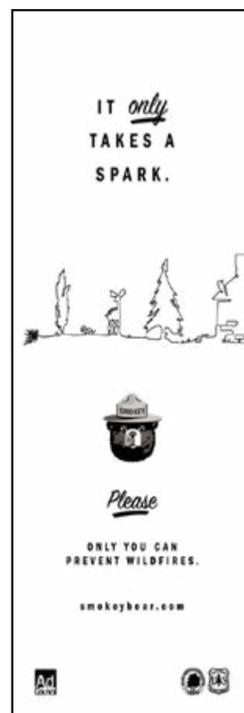
The rumor was that a

group was coming from Jacksonville at noon on a specific day to cut the female students' hair. He said, as the rumor went, the blonde girls' hair would be cut while the red-headed girls' hair would be shaved off.

Police and faculty were strategically stationed and all were on edge, as parents arrived before noon to pick up their daughters.

"When it came, nothing happened," said Mr. Peterson.

"Where did all that get us?" he asked. "I think it taught us something — that no man is an island ... Blacks need whites and whites need blacks ... If it wasn't for segregation Macclenny may have been one of the biggest towns in Florida."



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OBITUARIES

Wanda Fay Abbott of Macclenny

Wanda Fay Abbott, 66, of Macclenny died on Friday, March 2, 2018 at Heartland Health Care Center in Jacksonville. She was born on February 2, 1952 in Jacksonville to the late Paul and Inez (Flynt) Selph and had lived in Baker County for the past 25 years. She was a caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend who enjoyed shopping, taking trips up to the mountains, and sharing time with her family.



Wanda Abbott

Other than her parents, Ms. Abbott was preceded in death by sisters Glenda Feagle and Janice Selph. She is survived by her daughter Kelly Brogdon (Randy) of Glen St. Mary; stepmother Daisy Selph; brothers Leonard Selph (Claudia) and John Selph, all of Jefferson City, MO; sisters Gloria Taylor of Jacksonville, Angie Flynt (David Pembelton) and Regina Cooper, both of Macclenny; grandchildren David Abbott (Ann), Ashley Abbott and Dakota Canaday; eight great grandchildren.

A memorial gathering with visitation for family and friends will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, March 7 in the chapel of Blackburn-Curry Funeral Home in Macclenny.

Service held for Randall Bryant

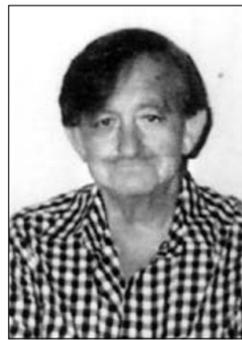
Joseph Randall Bryant, 79, of Glen St. Mary died on February 28, 2018 at St. Vincent's Riverside Center for Caring. He was born July 15, 1938 in Sanderson to the late Ernest Elbert Bryant and Leafie Ola Mann Bryant. Randall honorably served his country in the Army National Guard, and then began a lengthy, 42-year career with Flav-O-Rich Dairy Products. Randall enjoyed working on his farm raising livestock and growing his garden, which he loved sharing with family and friends. In his younger years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He attended Calvary Baptist Church.



Joseph Bryant

Mr. Bryant was predeceased by his parents; daughter Terrie Lynn Bryant; brothers Millard, Everett, Mabry and Johnnie Bryant; sisters Pauline Moats, Ernestine Barrett, Myrtle Plair and Sharon Delores Porter. He is survived by his one true love, Alief Box Bryant; children Sherry V. (Robert) Williams, Cherie J. (Mark) Toney, JoAnn M. (Raphard) Hickox-Moody, all of Glen St. Mary; brothers Franklin Bryant and Leroy Bryant, both of Glen St. Mary; sisters Rosalee Nelson of Kingsland, GA and Katie Parsons of Jacksonville.

A celebration of Randall's life was held on Saturday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at his church with Pastor Donnie Williams officiating. Interment followed at South Prong Cemetery. V. Todd Ferreira Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.



In loving memory of
Ronnie Norman
3/7/1953-3/13/2014

You're gone but not forgotten. We still hold your memory near, and wish with every breath we take that you could still be here. Just rest high upon that mountain; don't be sad that you had to go. Remember, you'll always be with us. We love you and miss you so.

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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
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Pastor Bro. Timothy Alford

Service March 17 for David Coburn

David Coburn, Sr., 74, of Baker County died quietly on Friday, February 23, 2018. David was born on October 10, 1943 in Wurtland, Kentucky to Henry David and Alta Bernice Coburn. As a career, he was a chef and was very talented in culinary arts. David was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.



David Coburn

Mr. Coburn is survived by his loving wife Linda Coburn; five children; many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. There will be a graveside committal service on Saturday, March 17 at 10 a.m. at Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville. A celebration of life service will follow at Sanderson Baptist Church after the graveside committal service. Hardage-Giddens Riverside Memorial Park is in charge of arrangements.

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Free amplified phones will be available for those with hearing loss at the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) booth at Heritage Park, 102 South Lowder St., on March 16 for the upcoming community expo.

At the booth you can see the amplified phone equipment available to qualified Florida residents and be trained on how to use them. Bring your Florida ID, your hearing aids and cell phone if you have them.

FTRI offers a variety of amplified telephones to meet the need of persons with a mild, moderate or severe hearing loss. The amplified telephones are available at all of the 24 regional distribution centers located throughout the state.

To qualify for a free special phone, you must be a permanent Florida resident, at least three years old and certified as having a hearing loss or speech impairment.

For more information about FTRI or the Florida Relay Service, please call 800-222-3448 or visit <https://www.ftri.org/>.

Scholarship dinner to be held on March 27th

Veteran school administrators and longtime employees Gail Brown and LuAnne Williams are the honorees at this year's annual "Leaving a Legacy" scholarship dinner set for Tuesday, March 27.

It will be held in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church of Macclenny starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased prior to the event. Call the superintendent's office at 259-0401.

Both the honorees have retired from the Baker County system, Ms. Brown after 30 years as a teacher, dean of students, vice-principal and principal.

She continues on as a trainer for substitute and beginning teachers.

Mrs. Williams spent 35 years in the district as a kindergarten teacher and principal of both elementary schools. Following retirement, she taught adult ed.

This will be the eighth annual scholarship dinner.

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Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Joel Addington
Dalton Whitney leaps over the miniature hurdle.

Nearly \$6000 for AHA

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Students and teachers at the PreK-Kindergarten Center raised nearly \$6000 through this week to benefit the American Heart Association through the nonprofit's annual Jump Rope for Heart campaign.

Assistant principal Naomi Anderson said the school had a goal of raising \$3800 this year and beat it soundly.

According to the school's profile on the American Heart Association website Tuesday morning, the school had raised \$5787.50 with 79 individuals registered.

It shows 21 of them pledged to exercise 60 minutes a day, 37 committed to choosing water over sugary beverages and 20 accepted the challenge to eat fruits and vegetables with every meal.

The top fundraiser with \$455 in donations was Ma-

son H.

"We will be taking donations until March 8," Ms. Anderson said.

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, its website states.

It aims to improve the lives of Americans through public health education, including CPR training.

"We help people understand the importance of healthy lifestyle choices," the website says. "We provide science-based treatment guidelines to health-care professionals to help them provide quality care to their patients. We educate lawmakers, policymakers and the public as we advocate for changes to protect and improve the health of our communities."



Left: Aralea Pearce plays hopscotch.

Below: Ivy Johnson runs the hurdles.



The rare red-cockaded Nesting in pines of the Osceola

Those in the Baker County area interested in searching for an endangered bird have the great opportunity to do so without traveling very far. An exciting search for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is readily available "right around the corner."

In 1970, the diminutive red-cockaded woodpecker was added to the federal endangered species list. Once a common species in the southeastern U. S., the bird's population numbers have drastically decreased. Why? These birds require open pine woods habitat. Once upon a time, this habitat was the "norm" in the southeast U. S. Fire was a regular occurrence in the pine woods. Due to both lightning strikes and from Native Americans.

Now, we suppress fires and allow the once open pine woods to develop thick understory which literally and figuratively adds "fuel to the fire" if a fire does break-out. Only a small percent of acreage is now maintained the way it used to be years ago when many, now endangered or extirpated fauna and flora used to live.

The red-cockaded woodpecker is a small bird, measuring a bit over 8 inches long. Color-wise, they are a fairly non-descript bird that blends in well when clinging to the side of a pine tree as they frequently do. Basically, they are black plumaged birds with sporadic white dots and dashes splashed on their backs and wings. They have large white "cheek patches" as well. This is the most distinctive field mark observation. The red "cockade" on the sides of the male's head are barely visible and not easily observed on a regular basis.

These birds have an interesting lifestyle. They live in family or community group usually consisting of three to nine birds. Usually, all the members of the cluster or colony are males

except for one lone female member. Each bird will excavate its cavity in a living pine tree. Not a dead snag or tree. It can take up to two years for a bird to finish its cavity. While inhabiting its cavity, the bird continuously pecks pitch holes around the entrance hole to the cavity. This creates a flow of sap that makes predation by climbing mammals and reptiles a bit difficult but not impossible.

Interestingly, not only do the red-cockaded only roost and nest in live pine trees, they usually forage in living pine trees for insects such as wood-boring beetles and grubs that make up the bulk of their diet. They may occasionally visit a dead tree or snag but are more frequently found among the live pine trees.

If you do take a trip to observe these amazing little birds, the Osceola National Forest is an ideal place that offers suitable habitat for these endangered birds. Look for holes in trees surrounded by white-sap flows as previously described. Often, cavity trees will have a white or green band painted around the tree trunk at about eye-level.

Often, you will hear these amazing little birds well before seeing them.

You may hear their tapping sounds or nasal-like calls sounding like "sripp, tsick." Their calls are quite unlike the notes of other pine woods woodpeckers found in their range.

Want to go on a fun, educating and relatively easy adventure? "Saddle-up" and take a trip to the forest to search for the black and white "ghost of the forest." The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Better yet, take a friend and/or child with you!

Did you know that ... scientists believe that male red-cockaded woodpeckers feed higher up in the trees than females.

Enjoy your nature trails.

For questions or comments, please email Jerry at jwalls443@gmail.com



Jerry Walls

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John Deere riding mower, automatic transmission, serviced and ready to go, \$1199 OBO. Leaf bagger, \$50. New Holland manure spreader, large capacity, \$1499 OBO. 904-259-2393. 3/1c

Plant sale: Fruit trees, blueberries, landscape and flowering plants. We take orders, Sands Daylily Farm, 6698 Sands Dale Road, Macclenny, FL 32063, 904-303-1501, 904-259-6891. Saturdays we are located at P&R Electric on Lowder Street. 3/8-4/12c

Auction, Saturday, March 17th at 9:00 am, 10513 Highway 84 West, Dothan, AL. Construction and farm equipment. Dennis Burton AL #578. 334-692-3955, www.burtonauction.com. 3/8p

Jazzy wheelchair/scooter, \$600. Cherry dining room table with four chairs, \$100. Like new twin size single mattress, \$40. Sony touch screen computer, like new, desktop or laptop, \$300. 904-259-2271, 904-408-1598. 3/8-3/15p

MISCELLANEOUS

Palm trees wanted: Pindo Palms, European Fan Palms, Windmill Palms, in large volume. Text David at Gateway Farms, 252-281-0235. 2/15-3/8p

Alterations: basic hemming, zipper repair, and basic alterations, next day service on most items. Marva Williams, 904-868-8604, 904-275-2770. 3/8-3/29p

We install 6" seamless gutters, pressure washing. 259-7335. 8/11ffc

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Monday - Saturday at 8 pm. Call Wanda at 904-994-7750.

ANIMALS

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

AUTOMOBILES

Harley Davidson Road King Classic, loaded, 19,000 miles, 1450 cc engine with all upgrades. 904-259-2393. 3/8c

2014 Leprechaun by Coachmen, 50th Anniversary Edition 319 DS, 32', 2 slides, 11,000 miles, clean and well maintained, too many extras to list, \$75,000 OBO. Call, 904-

536-1844. 3/8-3/22p

1999 Dodge Caravan with V6, around 30 miles per gallon, third row seat, two sliding doors, cold a/c, good tires, \$1999 OBO. 904-591-2916. 3/1c

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

Full time oil change and tire technician, experience helpful. Apply in person at Jimmy's Auto Repair, 959 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 6 pm., Drug-Free workplace. 3/8-3/29p

Now Hiring: Dental Assistant, full time (401k, vacation, sick). Seeking a dependable and experienced assistant to work Monday - Thursday. To apply, submit your resume and the required job application. More info and application on www.macclenydentist.com or call 904-259-4649. EOE. 3/8c

Wanted: Full-time make-up consultant, and full-time hair stylist. Great location, established business and clientele. Call, 904-885-1969. 3/8-3/15p

Farmworker: 4 temporary positions. 04/10/2018 through 11/15/2018, operate large GPS 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, Heaton Land Company II, Lyon, MS. Apply for this job at Clarksdale WIN Job Center, 236 Sharkey Ave, Clarksdale, MS 662-624-9001 with job order# 248841 or nearest workforce office with a copy of this ad. 3/8p

Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for a full-time Development Technician in the Community Development Office. \$24,440 annually/\$11.75 per hour. Benefits include Florida retirement, paid vacation/sick leave, holidays. This position is for a responsible person working with the public processing applications for building permits, land use and zoning changes, code enforcement, and contractor licensing in accordance with adopted procedures, ordinances and codes. This position is the frontline for the Community Development Department. Test will be given on knowledge of Microsoft applications, such as Excel, Outlook and Word. General office skills required. Graduation from an accredited high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency diploma required. Two (2) years experience in responsible office work; construction, land use and zoning, or real estate related work preferred. Valid Florida Driver's License and a driving record acceptable to insurance provider. Application and complete job description is available at the Baker County Human Resources office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 or www.bakercountyfl.org/jobs. Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:00pm. Baker County is a drug free work place and EO employer. 3/1-3/8c

Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for a full-time Truck Driver position in the Solid Waste Department. \$21,320 annually/\$10.25 per hour. Benefits include Florida retirement, paid vacation/sick leave, holidays. This position is full-time; four 10-hour days, Monday-Thursday. Graduation from an accredited high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency diploma required. Class B CDL is required. Valid Florida Driver's License and a clean driving record acceptable to insurance provider. Must be able to carry out written and oral instructions. Former roll-off truck experience a plus. Application and complete job description is available at the Baker County Human Resources office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 or www.bakercountyfl.org/jobs. Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:00pm. Baker County is a drug free work place and EO employer. 3/1-3/8c

Drivers, CDL-A: \$2500 sign-on, dedicated round trip van loads, week pay \$1250, full benefits, paid orientation. Marshall, 855-259-3747. 3/1-3/8p

Owner Operators, CDL-A: \$5000 sign-on, dedicated round trip van loads, up to \$2900 weekly gross, 12/28ffc

Local drivers needed. Class A & B CDL, home every night. Clean driving record, good pay. 904-259-4375. 12/28ffc

HELP WANTED-Accepting applications for electrician and AC duct installer. Must have experience and valid driver's license. Apply in person at Dependable located at 203 E. Macclenny Avenue. 904-259-6546 or submit application on our website at dependableleacandelectric.com. 1/21ffc

Experienced painters needed. Peacock Painting. Call 904-259-5877. 2/21ffc

Wayne Frier Macclenny. Looking for service repair man. Mobile Homes. Vehicle/Driver's License required. Jared, 904-259-4663, jm_martin23@yahoo.com. 1/18ffc

Wayne Frier Macclenny. Need T&T Contractors. Mud / Paint / Trim. Jared, 904-259-4663, jm_martin23@yahoo.com. 1/18ffc

Field Finish Drywall and Molding Contractors Needed; Live Oak Homes one of the leading producers of manufactured homes in the South East is seeking to hire qualified and quality Field Finish Drywall Finishers and Traditional Plant Service contractors. Great pay and steady work available in your LOCAL area. jm_martin23@yahoo.com, ktreat@liveoakhomes.org, 904-287-0774. 1/18ffc

FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE
ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST I
Highly responsible, paraprofessional position with the Office of Enrollment Services requiring the utilization of specialized software and adherence to state laws, rules, and policies and procedures governing college enrollment. Performs routine clerical functions and general office processes. Requires independent initiative, judgment, and the ability to handle confidential records. Must possess a thorough knowledge of federal and state laws and regulations, and college policies, procedures, and processes related to functions handled by the Enrollment Services Office. Requires Associate degree in appropriate area plus two years of related experience; or high school diploma plus four years of related experience. Additional education may substitute on a year for year basis for required experience in related area. Must be computer literate.
SALARY:
\$28,410 annually, plus benefits.
APPLICATION DEADLINE:
3/20/18
Position details and applications available online at: www.fgdc.edu or visit Human Resources Florida Gateway College 149 S.E. College Place Lake City, FL 32025-2007 Phone (386) 754-4314 Fax (386) 754-4814 Email: human.resources@fgdc.edu
FGC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. VP/ADA/EA/EO College in Education and Employment

REAL ESTATE
Notice to Readers
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limita-

tion or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

28 year established contracting firm with full benefits is now accepting applications for qualified applicants. Gateway Contracting, Inc. offers health insurance, vacation, paid holidays and 401k benefits, and provides stability, training, and growth for our employees. We are growing and have the need to fill the following positions. If you are interested and qualify, please apply online at www.gatewaycontractinginc.com. Full-time positions available: LEAD CARPENTER, must be able to perform journeyman level work as a carpenter in a commercial and industrial setting. This position requires a full range of both rough and finish skilled carpentry work, including the ability to work from drawings, specifications, and instructions to build, remodel and repair various types of facilities and structures. PLUMBER PIPEFITTER, pipe welding experience. Experienced in commercial and industrial work. Plumber's HELPER. Qualified applicants must have good driving record and pass background check. DFWP Call (904) 388-4799. 3/1-3/22c

Macclenny Nursing & Rehab is seeking RNs & LPNs full/part time. Day and Night shifts available. CNAs full/part time. Shifts available for 3-11 and 11-7. New wage scale! Must pass a criminal background check! Apply in person at 755 South 5th Street, Macclenny or call 904-259-4873 or email Masdc@southernitc.com. EE/AA Employer/M/F/V/D. 11/16ffc

Land in Georgia: 1 to 20 acre tracts, high and dry, off of Highway 185, \$5000 per acre, owner financing available. 912-281-9053, 912-550-4563. 3/8-3/15p

5 BR, 2 1/2 BA two story with apartment on south end, needs minor repair, \$118,500 OBO. 904-408-8085. 3/8p

Wayne Frier Macclenny, I buy land. Cash paid immediately. Call 904-259-4663. 3/9ffc

FOR RENT
2 BR, 1 BA house in Taylor, large yard, bring your horses, large barn, front and back porch, newly renovated, first/last and security, \$950/month. 904-707-4697, 904-525-9025. 3/8-3/15p

Rooms for rent in Macclenny. First and last required. Call, 904-408-8085. 3/8p

2-3 BR mobile homes available. \$525-\$660 month. Half-acre, garage, water, sewer, lawn care provided, family neighborhood. 912-843-8118. 7/27ffc

Lot for rent. Ready for a mobile home. Call 904-259-6735. 2/9ffc

3 BR, 1 BA newly remodeled house on a 1 acre lot located in Sanderson near the new Dollar Store. 8920 CR 127 Sanderson, FL 32087. \$600/ deposit, \$775/month, first & last month's rent plus security deposit is required to move in. Service pets only. Call 904-259-8444 or email vtpropertymanagement@yahoo.com for more information or to get an application. 1/18ffc

COMMERCIAL FR
Commercial office or retail space, 1800 sq. ft., CH/A, new paint and flooring, rent well below market value, no first/last required. 904-259-6271, 904-591-8200. 1/18ffc

MOBILE HOMES
3 BR, 2 BA homes starting at \$38,900. Includes delivery, set-up, skirting, central heat/air conditioning. Call Pat 904-225-0884. 8/19ffc

Lot model sale! \$1000 in free furniture included. Huge 4 bedroom. \$69,900. Many homes to choose from, waynefriermacclenny.com 904-259-4663. 3/8-3/29c

Brand new 2018, 2 BR home. \$37,900 with free thermal windows. waynefriermacclenny.com 904-259-4663. 3/8-3/29c

DEADLINES

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



Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, Christian Fellowship Temple in the Fellowship Hall, 251 West Ohio Avenue. Huge sale: all proceeds benefit the youth programs.

Friday & Saturday, 6:00 am - 3:00 pm, 6965 Odis Yarborough Road. Household items, men's and women's clothes, maternity clothes, baby items, and much more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 5566 Huckleberry Trail West. Estate/Moving Sale: Kid's clothes, furniture, kitchen, household, miscellaneous items.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, 4264 Dogwood Street, Macclenny II. Home decor, electronics, kitchen, books, some furniture.

Saturday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, 81 Dugger Street. No early birds. Vintage, tools, household, furniture. Everything must go.

Coming 1st Saturday in April: Huge multi-family yard sale in great location, just south of Interstate 10 on State Road 121 across from the Exxon Station. If you would like to participate in the sale, or for more information, contact James at 904-796-9298.

No money down! Use your land. 3 BR, \$399/month. 4 BR, \$499/month. waynefriermacclenny.com 904-259-4663. 3/8-3/29c

I BUY USED MOBILE HOMES
\$5 CASH PAID \$5 IMMEDIATELY
904.259.4663

NOW AVAILABLE
1 and 2 Bedrooms
Baldwin Grove
APARTMENTS
904-266-4070
T.T.D. 1-800-858-8771

US 90 E, right on Yellow Water Rd., right on Rainer Rd., go to stop sign, turn right. Go to first street, turn left.
RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

500 DOLLARS & DEED
is all you need to move into your new Manufactured & Modular Home

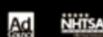


CALL PAT
904-225-0884

YOU DON'T WANT THEM RESPONDING TO YOUR TEXT.



STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG



COMMERCIAL FR

Commercial office or retail space, 1800 sq. ft., CH/A, new paint and flooring, rent well below market value, no first/last required. 904-259-6271, 904-591-8200. 1/18ffc

MOBILE HOMES

3 BR, 2 BA homes starting at \$38,900. Includes delivery, set-up, skirting, central heat/air conditioning. Call Pat 904-225-0884. 8/19ffc

Lot model sale! \$1000 in free furniture included. Huge 4 bedroom. \$69,900. Many homes to choose from, waynefriermacclenny.com 904-259-4663. 3/8-3/29c

Brand new 2018, 2 BR home. \$37,900 with free thermal windows. waynefriermacclenny.com 904-259-4663. 3/8-3/29c

HD Truck Mechanics & Technicians

Our nationwide company offers a pleasant atmosphere, excellent starting pay with opportunity for advancement, and a variety of benefits such as paid vacations, holidays, and company participation in medical, dental, life insurance and 401K for full time employees. TravelCenters of America is the market leader in "over the road" truck preventative maintenance and light repairs. Our mechanics average up to \$14/hr, with additional earning potential based on ASE certifications and productivity. Mechanical training is provided in electrical, air brakes, and air conditioning with company support of ASE certifications. Experience preferred, but all applications will be considered. Apply in person or online at www.mytjob.com

Travel Centers of America, 1024 US 301 South, Baldwin, FL 32234
We conduct pre-employment drug screening

JOB FAIR

Friday, March 9

9:30 am - 2:30 pm
in Building 1

for

Support Service Aides &
Food Support Workers

Bring a copy of your Social Security card, references and application (if you have one from People First). Applications can be found at

https://jobs.myflorida.com or filled out at the job fair.

LEGAL NOTICES



ALL SAFE MINI STORAGE
190 SOUTH LOWDER STREET
MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063

DIXIE MINI STORAGE
110 N 8th ST
MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063
904-259-3565

The following units containing household items such as furniture, appliances, etc., will be sold by public auction Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00 am to satisfy back rent. The following tenants can claim their property back if rent is paid before this date:

Name	Unit #
Pamela Jefferson	110
Pamela Starling	166

Name	Unit #
Michelle Souza	301
Stephanie Davis	51
Ashley Dixon	38
Shaneka Williams	14
Tammy Hines	225
Leslie Woods	284
Gerald Howard	133
Shirley Churchville	217
Richard Satterfield	236
Joseph Hatfield	65
Joann Burnham	184
Michael Smith	162
Charles Brown Sr.	28
Melburn Booher, Jr.	311
Erka Capra	216

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 02-2018-DR-44

In Re: The Marriage of SRINIVAS RANGU, Husband, and SARAH ANN BROWN, Wife.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: SARAH ANN BROWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on HUGH D. FISH, JR., Petitioner's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 531, Macclenny, FL 32063, on or before March 14, 2018, and to file the original with the clerk of this court at Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 14th day of February, 2018.

Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: Melissa Haines
Deputy Clerk

Hugh D. Fish, Jr.
Florida Bar No. 0242861
P.O. Box 531
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-6606
hughfish@setel.net
3/1-3/22c

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

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction on March 23, 2018 at 10:00 am at A, R&R, Inc. 11837 N SR 121, Macclenny, FL 32063:

2003 TLM Trailer
VIN# 2MNO1AAH731004741

1998 Honda Accord
VIN# 1HGCS6560WA117607

3/8c

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

Notice of Public Sale: Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on March 23, 2018, 12:00 pm at 10510 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

2004 Hyundai Santa Fe
VIN# KM8SC13D84U638768

3/8c

US STORAGE DEPOT SELF-STORAGE FACILITY
1171 S 6TH ST
MACCLENNY, FL 32063
904-451-5907

A public auction will be held Saturday, March 17th, 2018 at 12:00 pm to satisfy back rent. The following items will be sold at absolute bid.

Units belonging to:
•Tricia Bennett containing various household furniture and various odd items.
•Lauren Gainey containing various household furniture, various odd items, and pictures.

US STORAGE DEPOT SELF-STORAGE FACILITY
781 MACCLENNY AVE
MACCLENNY, FL 32063

Units belonging to:
•Saige Sanders containing various household items, various children's toys and play set, mattress set.
•John Stone containing various household furniture, children's toys, clothes, box of DVDs, and various odd items.
•Sharia James containing various tools and a Red Ford Explorer XLE automobile.

3/1-3/8c

INVITATION TO BID # 2018-03
Sony FWD85X8500
Display TVs & Installation

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners, Florida (County) will receive sealed bids until **3:00 p.m. local time, on March 15, 2018** at the County Administration Office located at 55 N. Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063. Bids delivered to any other location will not be considered received by the Administration Office. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any uncertainty regarding the time will be resolved against the Bidder. Bids will not be accepted via fax. Shortly after the bid due time has expired, the bids will be publicly opened and announced.

A clearly marked original and five (5) copies must be sealed in an envelope and clearly marked **"BID 2018-03"** on the exterior of the package submitted.

Request for additional information or clarifications must be made in writing to the Administration Office. Facsimile or e-mail questions are acceptable. The Administration Office will issue replies to inquiries and additional information or amendments deemed necessary in written addenda, which will be issued prior to the deadline for responding to this Invitation To Bid. Questions must be received no later than **3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2018**.

Baker County Board of County Commissioners
Administration Office
55 N. Third Street
Macclenny, Florida 32063
kennie.downing@bakercountyfl.org
904-259-3613

It will be the sole responsibility of the Bidder to check the County's website prior to submitting a response to determine if any addenda have been issued, to obtain such addenda, and to acknowledge addenda with their bid.

Respondents to this solicitation or persons acting on their behalf may not contact, between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the agency posting the notice of intended award, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and County holidays, any employee or officer of the executive or legislative branch concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the Administration Office or as provided in the solicitation documents. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response.

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in any bids received, to re-advertise for bids, or take any similar actions that may be deemed to be in the best interest of the County.

3/1-3/8c

ADVERTISEMENT FOR MOWING BIDS

The City of Macclenny is soliciting bids for roadside and sidewalk mowing, weed eating, edging and debris removal. Areas to be maintained are:

US 90 between Wildcat Drive and East Blvd.

SR 121 between George Hodge Road and Linda Street

SR 228 between William Barber Road and North Blvd.

Anticipated Contract term will begin April 2, 2018 and end September 28, 2018 with services provided on a bi-weekly schedule.

A mandatory preconference bid meeting will be held at City Hall on March 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be received by March 21, 2018 before 2:00 p.m. and bids will be opened at City Hall 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida.

Sealed Bid packages may be submitted in person or via mail to: Melissa Thompson's Attention at 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063, with "Mowing Bid" clearing marked on the outside of the package. All bid packages must include proof of Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation Insurance.

3/1-3/8c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE No.: 022015CA00024CAAXMX

CITIFINANCIAL SERVICING LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF,

VS.

ANGELINA TOLLIVER, ET AL. DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 11, 2017, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Baker County, Florida, on May 10, 2018, at 11:00 AM, at 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Room 113, Macclenny, FL 32063 for the following described property:

PARCEL A: PART OF THE NE ¼ OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NE ¼ OF THE SE ¼ WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 229 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY AS NOW ESTABLISHED); THENCE N 12 DEGREES 54' 05" W, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 147.26 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TONY GIVENS ROAD (A COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD); THENCE N 78 DEGREES 16' 10" E, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, 317.95 FEET; N 82 DEGREE 00' 25" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, LINE 105.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 15, PAGE 28 AND ALSO BEING THE WEST LINE OF LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TONY GIVENS; THENCE N 02 DEGREE 31'31" E, ALONG SAID LINE, 316.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 65, PAGE 617; THENCE S 86 DEGREES 57' 30" W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LANDS, 126.55 FEET; THENCE N 00 DEGREES 00'00" E, 97.20 FEET; THENCE N 87 DEGREES 50' 52" E, 130.67 FEET TO SAID WEST LINE OF LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TONY GIVENS AND ALSO BEING THE EAST LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 65, PAGE 617; THENCE S 02 DEGREES 31'31" W, ALONG SAID LINE, 95.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND ALSO:

PARCEL B: PART OF THE NORTHEAST ¼ OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST ¼ OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 229 (A 100' RIGHT OF WAY AS NOW ESTABLISHED); THENCE N 12 DEGREE 54' 05" W, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 147.26 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TONY GIVENS ROAD (A COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD); THENCE N 78 DEGREES 16'10" E, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, 317.95 FEET; THENCE N 82 DEGREE 00'25" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 105.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 15, PAGE 28 AND ALSO BEING THE WEST LINE OF LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TONY GIVENS; THENCE N 02 DEGREES 31'31" E, ALONG SAID LINE, 316.79 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 65, PAGE 617; THENCE S 86 DEGREE 57'30" W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LANDS 126.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE S 86 DEGREES 57'30" W, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 128.26 FEET; THENCE N 02 DEGREES 31'31" E, AND PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 65, PAGE 617 A DISTANCE OF 99.46 FEET; THENCE N 87 DEGREES 50' 52" E, 123.79 FEET; THENCE S 00 DEGREE 00'00" W, 97.20 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

Date: February 20, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Julie B Combs

Deputy Clerk of the Court

Tromberg Law Group, P.A.
1515 South Florida Highway, Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33432

3/1-3/8c

PUBLIC NOTICE

Call for Request for Proposals (RFP) Landfill Gas-to-Energy Project RFP # 18-01

The New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) for developing a landfill gas to compressed natural gas (LFG-to-CNG) project at the New River Regional Landfill (NRRL), an active municipal solid waste landfill in Union County, Florida. The Vendor shall be qualified to convert landfill gas to CNG. The selected Vendor shall be required to assume full responsibility for all services offered in their proposal. A pre-proposal meeting and site tour will be held on **Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)** at the NRRL. Attendance is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

NRRL is located 2.5 miles north of Raiford, Florida on State Road 121 in Union County, Florida. RFP packages can be picked up at the NRRL Administration Office located at 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, Florida 32083 or can be distributed upon request via email. Completed RFP packages shall be mailed to the NRSWA, P.O. Box 647, Raiford, Florida 32083-0647 or delivered to the NRRL Administration Office. After the RFP opening, the packages will be examined for completeness and preserved in the custody of the Executive Director. The NRSWA reserves the right to reject any or all RFP responses or a portion thereof for any reason. Any RFP responses received after the specified time and date will not be considered. Contact the NRSWA office at 386-431-1000 for questions concerning the RFP submission. The RFP submission **DEADLINE is Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).**

3/8-3/15c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 02-2017-CP-57

In Re: The Estate of JAMES VIRGIL COLLIER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JAMES VIRGIL COLLIER, deceased, whose date of death was October 19, 2017 and whose Social Security Number is xxx-xx-8049, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 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 must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

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 SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 March 1, 2018.

Attorney for Estate:

Hugh D. Fish, Jr.
Florida Bar No. 0242861
P.O. Box 531
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-6606
hughfish@setel.net
3/1-3/8c

REGISTRATION UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of RHODEN'S TRUE VALUE HARDWARE located at 6874 EAST MOUNT VERNON STREET, in the county of BAKER, in the City of GLEN ST. MARY, FLORIDA 32040, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at GLEN ST. MARY, Florida, this 15th day of February, 2018.

GLEN CASH HARDWARE, FEED & SEED, INC., Owner
3/8p

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.:02-2015-CP-0008CPAXMX

In Re: The Estate of LARRY CROW, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Administration of the estate of LARRY CROW, deceased, whose date of death was November 24, 2014 and whose social security number is XXX-XX-8073, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, 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 the estate of the decedent on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against 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 SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 March 1, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Charles Crow, Sr.
83 Green Elm Way
Carrollton, Georgia 30116

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Dale G. Westling, Sr.
Florida Bar No.: 203262
331 East Union Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 356-2341
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These shoes were found 46 yards from the crash caused by a drunk driver. Carissa Deason was thrown 30 yards and not even her father, a doctor, could save her.

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SPORTS



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Kat Rhoden throws the ball to first base for the out.

Photos by Jud Johnson

Lady Cats beat Paxon Make a successful home debut

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

After six straight road games to start the season, the BCHS Lady Wildcat softball team finally made its home debut on March 5.

The ladies made sure it was worth the wait.

Baker County used timely hits and run-saving defensive plays to overcome a two-run first-inning hole and win 5-2 over Paxon. The Lady Golden Eagles never threatened after the Lady Cats took the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning, and were limited to just one base hit through the final three innings by winning pitcher Taylor Crews and Liz McGovern.

"It's always good to win in front of a good home crowd," first-year head coach Kylee Canaday said. "It's good for the kids to come play on our field and get a win."

The Lady Cats (5-3) tied the game with back-to-back RBI hits by Emma Gipson and Kiki Carter with two outs in the bottom of the third inning. Gipson plated Catlin Harvin on a base hit up the middle, and Carter tied the score with a run-scoring triple to right field.

Both third-inning runs came after Harvin reached successfully on an error by Paxon's right fielder, who dropped a fly ball that would have been the third out of the frame. Harvin also drew a bases-loaded walk to plate Kat Rhoden for the go-ahead run in the fourth inning and scored Kim Thrower with a sacrifice fly to pad the lead in the sixth.

Rhoden also had an RBI base hit in the fifth inning.

"Our kids just made the adjustments at the plate the other coaches and I were talking to them about," coach Canaday said. "... We just made the adjustments and we started swinging at the right time."

Baker County also turned two inning-ending double plays to prevent Paxon from scoring more runs. Gipson caught a pop fly and then stepped on first base for the force out to end the first inning, leaving the Lady Gold-

en Eagles stranding a runner at third base after scoring a pair with just one out.

Thrower, who also doubled in the sixth inning, prevented Paxon from retaking the lead in the top of the fourth inning after the Lady Cats tied the score in the



Taylor Dyal

previous frame. She caught a pop fly in right field and fired the ball to catcher Harvin, who made the tag on a sliding Christine Tomlinson, who tagged up from third base, to end the inning.

"[The play] brought momentum back to our side, and then we came back and started swinging the bats after that," coach Canaday said. "It was a good change of momentum there during the game."

The Lady Cats drew three of their six walks in the bottom of the fourth inning, including Harvin's walk for the ultimate game-winning run.

The successful home debut came after the ladies fell just short in a tough battle against one of the area's best teams.

West Nassau scored a walk-off run on a two-out error in center field on March 2, and escaped with a 2-1 win over the Lady Cats.

McGovern held the Lady Warriors scoreless for much of the game after the home team went ahead 1-0 in the first inning. Baker County finally got on the board in the top of the seventh inning as Sara Keves scored Carter on a base hit.

Despite the loss, coach Canaday said there were still positives to take away from the hard-fought game.

"It's definitely encouraging to us as coaches to see the kids because West Nassau is ranked I believe No. 4 in the area right now and our kids battled great with them," she said. "They played a great game and we hung with them."

Gipson had a monster game on February 27, batting 4 for 4 with two doubles and four RBIs as she led Baker County to an 8-4 win at Hilliard.

She hit a pair of run-scoring doubles in the game, including the go-ahead two-run double to right field in the top of the sixth inning.

The team added cushion in the top of the seventh inning with RBI singles from Harvin and Allie Crumney and a sacrifice fly by Taylor Dyal.

Carter had a third-inning RBI double to left field two batters after Gipson broke the scoreless tie with a double to center field.

Keves batted 3 for 4 with two runs scored.

"Our kids just opened up and really started hitting when they put base runners on and they just came up clutch," coach Canaday said.

Gipson had an answer at the plate every time the Lady Flashes got back into the game. After Tristan Edwards tied the game with a two-run single in the bottom of the third inning, Baker County's first baseman responded with a run-scoring single to center field. Her go-ahead sixth-inning double also came after Hilliard briefly took a 5-4 lead in the fifth with Brooke Geiger's two-run home run.

Gipson batted 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs, and Harvin added a pair of hits on February 26 in Baker County's 11-7 win at Yulee.

The Lady Cats remain at home on March 8 against Atlantic Coast. They will try to stay perfect in District 3-5A competition the following night when they visit Suwannee.

"We're still improving," coach Canaday said. "We still haven't hit our peak of what we're going to hit in the season, but every day our kids are getting a little better, which is all we can ever ask of them."

Cats win four in a row

Riding hot bats, pitching

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Following a disappointing 0-3 start to the regular season, BCHS Wildcat head baseball coach Jarrell Rodgers told the players to put the slow start behind them and treat the upcoming games like a new season.

The players have bought into that message, and the Cats are undefeated in coach Rodgers' new season.

Baker County has won four straight games since that talk and have pulled above .500 overall. The offense, which was inconsistent through the opening games, has found its rhythm in the team's three most recent wins — over Ridgeview, Stanton and Oakleaf — as the program rolled by a combined score of 27-7.

Senior first baseman Clayt Smith and freshman second baseman Conner Moore have led the rejuvenated offense during the team's winning streak. Smith has hit 7 of 10 with two doubles and three RBIs in Baker County's most recent wins, while Moore has batted a combined 6 of 9 with three doubles and four RBIs during the same stretch.

Smith went 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs on March 6, and Baker County snapped Oakleaf's season-opening unbeaten streak with an 8-1 road win.

He connected with a two-run double to center field during the team's four-run first inning. He also drove in Moore — who went 3 for 5 with an RBI double — on a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth inning.

"Anytime he's clicking at the plate he gives us a chance to drive a gap and get some runs in," coach Rodgers said of Smith. "Everybody feeds off of that. He's that kind of guy. When he's not hitting the rest of them aren't hitting."

The Cats out-hit Oakleaf 16-6 in their second lopsided win in less than 24 hours. Travis Neal batted 4 for 4 with a double, while Jordan Vanvactor, Casen Milton and Zac Gregory each had two hits.

Winning pitcher Vanvactor threw four shutout innings with three strikeouts and four hits allowed. He forced the Knights to strand five runners in scoring position, and his third strikeout ended the bottom of the third inning after Oakleaf loaded the bases.

But another bases-loaded scenario nearly allowed the Knights to sneak back into contention. Oakleaf loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the sixth inning with a prime opportunity to put a major dent into Baker County's 6-1 advantage.

Pitcher Jarron Hodges got out of the jam with just one run allowed, however, and ended Oakleaf's best chance to make the game competitive. The Knights scored on a fielder's choice,



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Jarron Hodges runs to first base.

but Hodges then forced two harmless ground outs to close out the inning.

"For Jarron, any time he can work down in the zone ... it's a tough pitch to hit. He gets a lot of ground balls for us," coach Rodgers said. "He was able to take a deep breath and work down in the zone and work out of it."

After getting two runs of



Ridge Stewart

cushion in the top of the seventh inning, Smith closed out the game in quick fashion. He struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh inning to seal Baker County's fourth straight win.

"It was a good one coming on the road, especially a 3:30 start time on the road," the second-year head coach said. "... That was a big one for us to pull through and keep the winning streak rolling."

The win at Oakleaf came afternoon after the Cats rolled 11-1 over Stanton in a five-inning run-rule game.

Smith went 2 for 3 with three RBIs, including the go-ahead third-inning single and the game-ending two-run double to left field in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Colby Kennedy batted 2 for 3 with an RBI single to cap off the team's seven-run fourth inning.

Winning pitcher Joel Satterwhite and relief pitcher Mike Davis combined for the three-hit effort.

"He's (Satterwhite) been good out of the bullpen, so we figured it was a good time to give him a start. He rolled out, gave us a good start," coach Rodgers said.

Cats rally around injured catcher

Catcher Wade Johnson sat on the ground just outside the batter's box, wiping away blood from his left eyebrow after getting hit in the head by a pitch in the fourth inning on March 2.

The Cats gathered together in the dugout to say

a prayer for Johnson, who received several stitches for the injury.

"It's one of those moments that's hard to explain unless you've been a part of it before," coach Rodgers said. "When something like that happens it's like something clicks with the team and the guys ... quit worrying about themselves or they've had a bad at bat so far in the game. They start doing it for other reasons."

And with the newfound focus, the Cats rallied from a five-run deficit to stun the visiting Ridgeview Panthers 8-5.

Moore shined at the plate in his second varsity game. He went 3 for 3 with two doubles and three RBIs as he led Baker County to the comeback victory.

"Conner's a special kid. He's a type that doesn't come through very often and we decided after watching him in a few JV games that we felt comfortable with him coming up," coach Rodgers said. "Obviously, we didn't expect him coming out like he has so far, but there's big things to come for that kid if he continues to work hard and keeps his head straight."

Baker County scored seven of its eight runs following Johnson's injury, including two in the fourth inning and another five in the fifth. Milton went 2 for 3 with the game-tying RBI single in the fifth inning, and Ridge Stewart drove in the go-ahead run in the next at bat on a sacrifice hit.

Caleb Crews shut down the Panthers after entering the game in the top of the second inning with the Cats trailing 3-0. Ridgeview's Justin Farmer hit a two-run single to right field in the second frame, scoring runners who were already on second and third when Crews took over on the mound.

But Ridgeview only managed two hits in the final five innings as Crews threw four strikeouts. He retired the Panthers in order to cement the victory, and ran off the field with a fist pump after the game-ending strikeout.

"You got to make sure you've got a guy that's going to get in there and pound the zone and not give up free base runners by hitting guys or walking guys," coach Rodgers said. "Caleb's obviously that guy we've got a lot of faith in to come in that position and do it."

The Cats will try to keep the momentum rolling on March 9 when they host Fort White and March 12 against visiting Palatka.

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JV ladies blast Paxon, boys top Stanton

Ladies win 18-2

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

The BCHS JV Lady Wildcat softball team scored 15 runs in the second inning on March 5, and ultimately blew out Paxon 18-2 in three innings.

Reagan Griffis, Taylor Crews and Kenzie Gipson all hit two-RBI doubles in the high-scoring second inning, which saw Baker County hit through the lineup twice. Crews also ended the game in the third inning with a two-run hit that fell between two Paxon players in left field, which scored Emily Lee and Griffis for the 15-run run mercy rule.

Karli Johnson also hit an RBI triple in the second inning. Johnson, Crews and Alyssa Taylor also scored on wild pitches in the frame.

Lee and Emily Mobley combined to pitch a one-hit shutout on March 2 as the JV Lady Cats shut out host West Nassau 4-0.

Baker County scored half of its runs on second-inning errors. The JV ladies padded their lead in the third inning as Taylor scored on a wild pitch and Mobley was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. The hit batter plated Gipson, who went 2 for 3.

Crews also doubled in the win.

JV Cats beat Stanton after back-and-forth loss



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Jon Shumake
Antonio Esterling (center) leads a huddle in Baker County's JV baseball team's loss to Ridgeview.

The BCHS JV Wildcat baseball team beat Stanton 7-4 on March 5 after overcoming a 2-0 first-inning deficit.

"We got down early in the first inning giving up two runs. But battled all game and was able to pull it out," coach Brad Stone wrote in a message Tuesday.

Baker County nearly battled out of a deeper hole on March 2 against Ridgeview, but the JV Panthers pulled out a 7-6 win in the back-and-forth contest.

After falling behind 4-0, the JV Cats scored five runs in the fourth inning to briefly take the lead. Kyler Holton hit the go-ahead two-run



Lane Dinkins throws the pitch early in the team's game against Ridgeview.

double to left field.

Ridgeview regained the advantage with a three-run fifth inning, which included an RBI double to deep left field.

Carter Kennedy hit two triples in the game, the first of which opened Baker County's high-scoring fourth inning. He also scored on a wild pitch after leading off the bottom of the fifth inning with a triple to right field, which cut Ridgeview's lead to 7-6.

The JV Cats were unable to complete the comeback, though, as seven of their final eight batters were retired, including two straight strikeouts to end the game.

Johnson goes 1-2 at state tourney

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Senior BCHS Wildcat wrestler Jordan Johnson went 1-2 at the FHSAA Class 1A state tournament held March 2 and 3 in Kissimmee.

Both of Johnson's losses came against wrestlers who ultimately finished fourth and fifth in the state. He opened the tournament with a 13-4 decision loss to Anthony Temes of Cardinal Gibbons, who finished fourth in the state after falling in a 1-0 decision in the third-place match. After a win in the first consolation round, Johnson was eliminated from the tournament in a 15-4 major decision loss to Immokalee's Neverteson Lahens, who went on to win the fifth-place match.

Still, coach Hank Farmer was proud of the way Johnson competed in his three matches.

"He came out and wrestled hard. He left everything on the mat. That's everything you can expect from a kid like Jordan," coach Farmer said Monday. "... The kid fought hard every match and battled all the way to the end. He didn't quit. I was proud of him. I really was."

Johnson bounced back from the opening loss to score a 7-3 decision over Berkeley Prep's Robert Heyck in the opening consolation round.

He ended his senior season with a 27-5 overall record, including just two losses during the regular season. Johnson also captured his first District 3-1A championship and advanced to the state meet for the first time in his third regional tournament appearance.

"It was a very successful season for him," coach Farmer said. "... Every day he came in and gave it his all in practice as well as in the meets."



Jordan Johnson

Lifters bring home the hardware

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

With a decade of unprecedented success behind them, the BCHS Wildcat weightlifters understand they have targets on their backs as other programs work to de-throne them.

The targets grew a little larger on February 26 at the Suwannee Invitational.

"Yesterday I told them (the lifters) I noticed how two or three different teams at that meet the other day was like bonding together to pull against us," head coach Scott McDonald said on March 1. "... What we do as a weightlifting program and the things that we are about and the way we train, let them band together. That's fine, because that's the way it's going to be at the state meet anyway. So hey, let them do it. It's going to do nothing but make us better, make us stronger."

And the Cats were already the strongest team at the Suwannee Invitational.

Baker County won four of the 10 weight classes to finish first in the invitational with 62 points, outscoring top programs such as 2017 Class 1A state champion Madison County and Class 1A fourth-place team Interlachen.

The team had multiple lifters score in three divisions, including a first-second sweep in the 169-pound class and a first and third showing in the heavyweight division, to help it win its second large invitational within one week.

"... [Y]ou get really special things when you have that type of depth," coach McDonald said. "... That's always a great thing when you're getting the extra points in each weight class."

Defending state champion Dalton Simon and William Bloodsaw took first and second place in the 169

class. Simon, who posted the division's highest bench press and clean and jerk, won the class by 100 pounds over Bloodsaw, which was the largest margin of victory for any Wildcat weightlifter.

But Bloodsaw had the second-best bench press and clean and jerk in the class, and out-muscled the third-place lifter by 30 pounds.

"We have a very, very spe-

cial weightlifter right now in Dalton Simon," coach McDonald said. "He is head and shoulders better than everyone else in the 169. Well what's kind of getting overlooked because of that is how great William Bloodsaw's doing in the 169."

District preview

The BCHS Wildcat weightlifting team wants to be selfish with the district championship trophy.

Baker County has been the only program to capture the District 6-1A title since the inception of districts in 2016. Head coach Scott McDonald doesn't want that to change in 2018.

"I would say we're the favorite for the district and going into the region (if) we remain healthy, people make body weight, I think we're kind of in the running for regional again," he said. "And that's just going to boost us up and hopefully ... have a great shot at the state weightlifting meet as well."

The District 6-1A meet is scheduled for March 10 at Clay, and opening lifts are set to begin at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$6.

The top six lifters in each weight class advance to the Region 3-1A meet. Baker County, which won the region for the first time last year, is scheduled to host the meet on March 24.

Coach McDonald said he hopes at least 15 Cats advance to the regional meet.

which all six scoring lifters were separated by just 30 pounds.

Marcus Dialo also won the 139 class by 20 pounds as he posted the division's best bench press and clean and jerk.

John Green in the 154 and Kyle Griffis in the 238 both finished in second place. Carson Padgett in the 119 and Seth Paige in the 183 both took third, while Brandon Combs scored with a fourth-place finish in the 199 class.

The victory at Suwannee

marked Baker County's second first-place showing at a large invitational in the final week of the regular season. The Cats also topped the Fleming Island Invitational on February 21.

That success is proof the program has the potential to claim its seventh Class 1A state championship since 2008, coach McDonald said. The state series is scheduled to begin March 10 with the District 6-1A meet on March 10 at Clay.

"It shows them what they're capable of is what it does. Tangible evidence of what they are accomplishing and what they can do," coach McDonald said. "What I don't want them to do is get satisfied with it. ... I want to stay hungry."

He also thanked his three assistant coaches — Denzel Mack, Freddie Smith and Ryan Young — for their help during the team's undefeated regular season.

"They do it because they love being around these guys, love being around the competitive nature of weightlifting, and basically they're competitors themselves," he said. "I greatly appreciate everything they're here doing and helping these guys become young men."



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Basketball season ends for two former Wildcats

Basketball season came to an end for two BCHS Wildcat stars, while other ex-Baker County players remained

busy on the baseball and softball fields.

• Junior guard Charles Ruise Jr.'s Central State Ma-

raiders' seven-game winning streak was snapped with a 70-66 overtime loss to Benedict College on Febru-

ary 28 in the quarterfinals of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament in Birmingham, Ala. Ruise led Central State (14-15) with 15 points and nine rebounds.

• Guard Delicia Washington's sophomore season ended on February 28 as her Florida Lady Gators lost 48-43 to Ole Miss in the opening round of the SEC tournament in Nashville. Washington scored two points with eight rebounds and three assists in the loss.

• The Middle Georgia State Knights lost two out of three games against the University of Mobile in their first Southern States Athletic Conference series of the season. Senior first baseman Mikal Flores went 2 for 6 on March 2 as the Knights lost both games of a doubleheader 8-1 and 7-2. Senior pitcher Jared Crews threw three innings with five hits and five earned runs in the first game. Flores batted 2 for 5 with a double, RBI and two runs scored as Middle Georgia State (17-6, 1-2) rebounded with an 11-9 win.

The Knights also beat South Carolina-Beaufort 14-4 in eight innings on February 27. Flores scored a run and had a sacrifice hit.

• The Tallahassee Community College Lady Eagles went 1-3 in the Seminole State College Invitational held March 3 and 4. Sophomore Brandie Callaway had a solo home run and Callie Paine pitched eight innings with eight hits, two earned runs, two walks and eight strikeouts as the team won 7-5 over Miami Dade College in eight innings to open the invitational. Callaway went 1 for 3 with a run scored in a 12-8 loss to Seminole State College of Florida in the second game.

Tallahassee was shut out in both games on March 4

with a 6-0 loss to St. Petersburg and an 8-0 loss to St. Johns River State College. Callaway combined to bat 1 for 5. Paine threw six innings with 14 hits, three earned runs, a walk and five strikeouts in the early game, and then pitched one inning with a hit, run, walk and a strikeout in the second game.

TCC also played a pair of doubleheaders against Santa Fe during the week. The two teams split the one on February 27, but Santa Fe won the first game and the second game ended in a 6-6 tie on March 1.

Paine threw 4.1 innings with five hits, six earned runs, three walks and three strikeouts in the team's 7-1 loss in game one of the first doubleheader. TCC won the second game 8-0.

Callaway went a combined 2 for 4 with a walk in the second doubleheader, and Paine made pitching appearances in both games. She allowed two hits, three earned runs, four walks with a strikeout as Tallahassee (8-12-1) fell 6-5 in the first game at Santa Fe. She threw 1.2 innings in the tie with two hits allowed.

• Junior Landon Boyette's Thomas Night Hawks swept Siena Heights in a three-game series to improve 11-12 overall. Boyette combined to bat 1 for 8 with a single, two RBIs and a stolen base in the series, which saw the Night Hawks win 2-0 and 13-12 in a doubleheader on March 3 and win 11-3 the next day.

He had a base hit on February 27, but his Thomas Night Hawks (8-12) lost 5-2 at Albany State.

• Junior pitcher Zach Rafuse lost his first game of the season on March 2 as his South Carolina-Aiken Pacers lost 8-2 to Georgia College in Peach Belt Conference play. He pitched 5.2 innings with 11 hits and four earned runs allowed with three strikeouts. The Pacers (11-6, 4-2) split the final two games of the series, losing 13-3 on March 3 before taking the final game 5-4.

• Sophomore pitcher Dylan Hall's FSCJ BlueWave fell 2-0 at Santa Fe on March 3 after a 16-4 loss to Tallahassee Community College on February 27.

• Senior catcher Kylie Holton's Morehead State Lady Eagles went undefeated in the Winthrop Invitational to improve their record 13-4. Holton went 1 for 3 with a run scored on March 3 as the Lady Eagles topped Youngstown State 5-4.

• Freshman Madison Kennedy's 13th-ranked Florida State Lady Seminoles won three out of five games in the Unconquered Invitational. After falling 1-0 to Hofstra in 10 innings and 5-0 to Oregon on the opening day of the tournament, the Lady Seminoles (15-6) won their final three games by a combined score of 13-3. They beat Florida Gulf Coast 6-2 and Hofstra 5-0 on March 3 and then topped Oregon 2-1 on March 4.



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BCMS programs dominate in wins

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

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ange Park errors in the lopsided game.

Baker County tried to stay undefeated on March 6 at Lake Asbury. The middle school program visits Suwannee and Green Cove on back-to-back days beginning March 8. The road stretch is set to continue March 13 at Charlton.

B-Cats beat Lake City, Orange Park

After alternating wins and losses through their first four games, the BCMS Bobcats won back-to-back road games at Lake City and Orange Park to improve to 4-2 on the season.

Baker County scored two runs in the first inning and then scattered single runs across the final three frames on March 1, helping the team pull away 6-2 at Lake City. Pitcher Brady Chauncey allowed one earned run with four strikeouts in six innings, and batted 2 for 4 with an RBI at the plate.

Tyce Moore went 3 for 4 with two RBIs, and drove in the first run of the game with a first-inning single that gave the B-Cats the lead for good. Conner Brassart and Jamil Jones, who also doubled, both had multi-hit games, and Easton Stevens also doubled.

The win in Lake City came two days after Baker County blasted Orange Park 26-0 in three innings.

The B-Cats took control of the game early with an 18-run first inning, including 12 runs before Orange Park recorded the first out of game. The team added another eight runs in the top of the third inning.

Chauncey, Moore, Wilford, Stevens and Landen Hickman all had two hits in the blowout, in which the Baker County out-hit Orange Park 17-1. Titus Richardson had four RBIs and three runs scored, Moore had three RBIs, and Kale Gibson, Chauncey, Wilford and Luke Davis each drove in a pair of runs.

Jacob Miller and Brody Griffis combined for a strikeout and three walks in the one-hit shutout.

The BCMS Lady Bobcat softball team continued its perfect start to the season with a pair of dominant victories over Lake City and Orange Park by a combined score of 32-0.

Emily Griffin went 5 for 5 with two doubles, a triple and five RBIs on March 1, and the ladies improved to 5-0 on the season with an 11-0 shutout at Lake City. She drove in runs on doubles in the first and third innings, and then connected with a bases-clearing triple to left field during Baker County's five-run fifth inning.

Kyleigh Brown, Kaylee Rodgers, Madison Lagle and Abby Courson each had two hits.

Lagle, who also doubled, has yet to allow a run in the pitcher's circle as Baker County has blanked its opponents in all five games. She threw another gem against Lake City, pitching a complete game four-hitter with 12 strikeouts.

She contributed to the team's third no-hitter of the young season on February 27, and the Lady B-Cats rolled 22-0 over Orange Park in three innings. She threw seven strikeouts in two innings, and Taylor Mann added two additional strikeouts in one inning.

Mann was even more productive at the plate, batting 3 for 3 with four RBIs and a double, which was one of Baker County's seven extra-base hits in the rout. Kalin Davis, Rogers, Griffin, Brooklyn Kennedy and Lagle all also doubled, and Abby Courson led off the team's 13-run second inning with a triple.

Brooklyn Davis went 2 for 2 with two runs scored.

The Lady B-Cats added another eight runs in the top of the third inning off doubles by Mann and Kalin Davis and singles from Haley Marker and Emaleigh Raulerson. Emma Richardson also crossed home on an error in the inning, which was one of eight Or-

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