



Undefeated season Page 15



Season ends with victory Page 15

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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88TH YEAR | VOLUME 50

APRIL 5, 2018

AT A **GLANCE**

THINGS TO DO

APRIL 6
Lip Sync Battle
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Heritage Park Village
Loudner Street
Macclenny

Bring your best props and dance moves for a chance to win the grand prize in the Lip Sync Battle at Heritage Park April 6 at 7 p.m., which is sponsored by the Baker Prevention Coalition. It will feature an obstacle course, photo booth, face painting, magic show, cornhole and more. Call (904) 259-3922 for more information. Gates open at 5 p.m.

APRIL 7
Spring garden festival
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Baker County Ag Center
U.S. 90 in Macclenny

The 10th annual Spring Garden Festival will be held again this year at the Ag Center Arboretum & Gardens in west Macclenny on Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The event features a plant sale, gardening

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FEATURES



Sex assault awareness
See page 8

Go vote ...

What is the best part about prom?

- 45% Dressing up
- 27% Friends
- 18% After-party
- 9% Music/Dance

bakercountypress.com

Drug dealer plea deals

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Hodges' legacy 5K to honor late pitcher

JON SHUMAKE
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Former BCHS Wildcat pitcher Colby Hodges always had a heart for helping others, no matter what challenges he faced.

Whether it was visiting other children in the hospital while he battled testicular cancer, working extended day at Macclenny Elementary School or coaching baseball, Colby strove to improve the lives of those around him.

That giving spirit will live on through Wildcat Warrior Inc.

The nonprofit organization was founded by four former BCHS students — Tracy Boggs, Linda Gibson, Jackie Rodgers and Robin Williams — who are friends with Colby's mother Michelle Hodges. The group's original plan was to fund raise to help Ms. Hodges, but it grew in scope at the request of Colby, who passed away on March 11 at 19 years old.

"I know it was very important to him to give back," Ms. Hodges said. "Whenever Tracy first approached me and asked me what could they do to help his answer was, 'Mom I don't need anything. Please can we just help someone else?' He would be very, very happy to see these things going forward."

"How it started literally was the love of our friend and trying to make sure as a momma she didn't have to worry where the light bill or the mortgage was going to come from," Ms. Boggs said. "She could focus on being a momma to him, and that was what was important to us. When he said that he wanted to help other people we thought

how many other mommas are out there like that who want to stay home with their babies."

Wildcat Warrior Inc. aims to provide community and financial support to families throughout Northeast Florida who have children battling life-threatening illnesses.

The nonprofit will hold its first fund-



Colby Hodges pitches for the BCHS Wildcats.

File photo



raising event April 14 with the Wildcat Warrior 5K at Heritage Park. The event begins at 9 a.m. and entry is \$14 — an homage to Colby's jersey number — for groups up to six people.

Visit www.WildcatWarrior.org or www.Facebook.com/WildcatWarrior.org for information about how to register for the 5K, donate to the organization or volunteer.

"We wanted everyone to be able to come out and be able to fundraise and get the charity off the ground," Ms. Boggs said. "We also wanted people to not feel like they couldn't participate because of the cost. We wanted to make it to where it was affordable for everyone."

The BCMS Bobcat baseball team will also host a dunking tank at the event, and anyone who dunks a player with a left-handed throw will earn a prize, Ms. Boggs said. The dunking tank is a representation of Colby's fun-loving person-

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Man flees on SR 121 after toss of firearm

A Bradenton, FL man is expected to face charges in Baker County for a hit and run accident and subsequent high-speed fleeing from police following an incident involving a fight and a semi-automatic pistol in Glen St. Mary at mid-day on March 31.

Antonio Vaca, 19, was taken into custody in Union County shortly after the sheriff's department called off a chase on SR 121 at the county line. He was held there until the following day when he assisted officers in retrieving the pistol he tossed into the woods near the corner of Madison and Clinton streets in Glen.

Witnesses said the incident was sparked by a fight in front of a residence on North Glen (CR 125) between Eugene Prowant, 34, of Greenville, TN and Dustin Rhoden, 31, of Sanderson, described as the boyfriend of Mr. Prowant's ex-wife Kelly, 34, who lives at the address.

Mr. Rhoden told Deputy Timothy Griffin he was "sucker-punched" by the ex-husband when he arrived to leave his vehicle and ride to work with a friend. As they scuffled, Mr. Prowant yelled to Mr. Vaca, who was standing nearby, to "Get the gun!" and he allegedly retrieved it from the trunk of a 2012 Chevrolet and tucked it into his waistband.

Ms. Prowant told the deputy that Mr. Vaca (also known as J.R.) never pointed the weapon at anyone before he jumped into the car and drove into the south travel lane where he collided with a 2015 Kia driven by Jesslyn Williams, 19, of Glen.

The fleeing suspect turned on Madison and apparently ditched the pistol before re-entering CR 125 south and eventually to SR 121 where Deputy Shane Dickens spotted it going 100 mph as it weaved dangerously in and out of traffic.

Mr. Vaca said later he fled because he was in possession of marijuana. It was not clear as to the relationship between him and Mr. Prowant, or who may face an additional count because the pistol, loaded

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Town hall: The faces of addiction

JOEL ADDINGTON
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Mike Spivey, Gary Christmas and Amber Harvey sat before a full house at the Ag Center last week for the Baker Prevention Coalition's latest town hall meeting on substance abuse.

All three are recovering addicts from Baker County.

They related their stories of addiction, self-destruction and jail time, but also how their behavior affected those closest to them.

Mr. Spivey now counsels other addicts through the same program that helped him — Teen Challenge in Jacksonville, which also counsels adults. He's 39 and now six years sober.

Mr. Christmas, 43, described himself as a "functioning" meth addict — un-



County commissioner Cathy Rhoden speaks to a packed crowd at Ag Center the evening of March 29. She leads an opioid task force.

til he wasn't. His wife would eventually kick him out, costing him his family.



Former addict Mike Spivey.

her house, but by her mother.

All three are now in recovery and credit their sobriety to accepting Jesus Christ into their lives. Where they once turned to drugs, now they look to God.

Prior to their talk the eve-

See page 3

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Legacy: 5K honors Colby

From page 1

ality, Ms. Hodges said.

His mother said the organization's name came from the two team's he pitched for — the BCHS Wildcats and the Warriors, a Jacksonville-based travel ball club — but it ultimately encapsulated so much more.

“He liked to keep the peace, but if you put him in a fight and he knew he had to make that fight he would fight with every ounce of his being,” she said. “He was a true warrior. He did not give up. He kept the fight.”

Along with financial support, the group wants to provide community support as well. Ms. Boggs said she hopes Wildcat Warrior Inc. becomes a “comprehensive resource for families,” with a list of resources and programs to help get “life back to as normal as you can for that family.”

One aspect of the community support is in-person help for families who might not receive similar support otherwise. Ms. Hodges said she wants other families to have a constant presence to check in on them or to stay with the children when the parents have to go to work or run errands.

“I’m very blessed to have had the job and the people behind me that I work with.



Colby and his mother Michelle Hodges. FACEBOOK PHOTO

They were very understanding and helpful to me,” Ms. Hodges said. “But as far as other families you may not have parents who are in that situation where they can leave and go back to work four or five times a day to make sure your child is getting the medication that they need or given sustenance when they need it.”

“We want to be there to fill those times with people too,” Ms. Boggs said. “... When it comes down to the end of the day money means

the least and that kind of support means the most.”

Ms. Hodges said it's impossible to thank the community enough for its support of her family through Colby's journey, and said she hopes to give back in her son's legacy through the nonprofit.

“It was so overwhelming for all the support. You can never thank people enough for that,” she said. “... I personally want to be able to give back the same way.”

Man flees on SR 121

From page 1

with a 10-round magazine, had been reported stolen in a home burglary in Tennessee.

Mr. Rhoden and Mr. Prowant declined to pursue criminal charges stemming from the fight.

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The Baker County Press Weather

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Sunny
High: 70 Low: 51

Friday
Partly Cloudy
High: 79 Low: 59

Saturday
Few Showers
High: 80 Low: 58

Sunday
Few Showers
High: 73 Low: 59

Monday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 80 Low: 66

Tuesday
Cloudy
High: 82 Low: 68

Wednesday
Few Showers
High: 75 Low: 61

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 3/27	73	54	79/50	0.00"
Wed, 3/28	79	48	79/51	0.00"
Thu, 3/29	82	54	79/51	0.00"
Fri, 3/30	77	59	80/52	0.38"
Sat, 3/31	70	55	80/52	0.00"
Sun, 4/1	75	55	80/52	0.00"
Mon, 4/2	86	55	80/52	0.00"

Precipitation 0.38"
Normal precipitation 0.83"
Departure from normal -0.45"
Average temperature 65.9°
Average normal temperature 65.5°
Departure from normal +0.4°

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	7:12 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
Friday	7:11 a.m.	7:50 p.m.
Saturday	7:10 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Sunday	7:09 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Monday	7:08 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
Tuesday	7:07 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
Wednesday	7:05 a.m.	7:53 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	5.89 ft.	-0.09 ft.
Maccleddy	4.33 ft.	-0.12 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	4:25-6:25	4:49-6:49
Fri	5:13-7:13	5:37-7:37
Sat	6:01-8:01	6:25-8:25
Sun	6:49-8:49	7:13-9:13
Mon	7:37-9:37	8:01-10:01
Tue	8:24-10:24	8:47-10:47
Wed	9:10-11:10	9:34-11:34

Weather History

April 5, 1955 - The Northern Rockies and the Northern High Plains were in the midst of a four day storm which produced 52 inches of snow at Lead, located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

THINGS TO DO

From page 1
exhibits, local vendors, kids activities and Florida-friendly landscaping advice. It is sponsored by the extension office and local master gardeners. For more info, call 259-3520.

APRIL 9
Healthy Baker/Infant mortality task force meets
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Baker County Health Department
480 W. Lowder St.
Maccleddy, FL

The county's Infant Mortality Task Force, a partnership between Northeast Florida Healthy Start and the county health department, will meet Monday, April 9 following the Healthy Baker meeting which begins at 11:45.

APRIL 12
New River library coop meeting
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
New River Solid Waste Facility

The New River Public Library Cooperative Governing Board Meeting will be at the New River Solid Waste Facility.

APRIL 13
Dollar karaoke at the brewery
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Crooked Rooster Brewery
1478 S. 6th St.
Maccleddy, FL 32063

Crooked Rooster Brewery is hosting a dollar karaoke fundraiser to benefit the Women's Center of Jacksonville during Sexual Assault Awareness month. There will be prize drawings for \$5 as well as hamburgers and hotdogs for donations. All proceeds will benefit survivors of sexual assault.

Scout sign-ups

Cut Scout Pack 555 will have sign-ups for boys entering the first grade in the fall on April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the extended day room on the PreK-K campus in south Maccleddy.

Camping, racing derby cars, shooting BB guns and bow and arrow are just a few of the fun activities that Cub Scouts do.

Fraser reunion

The annual Fraser Family Reunion will be held Sunday, April 8 at Heritage Park in Maccleddy. Registration begins at noon, business meeting at 12:30 and lunch at approximately 1:00 p.m.. Additional parking space located behind Heritage Park.

Addiction: Resources there if you look

From page 1

ning of March, they and others in attendance watched a video featuring former drug addicts talking about their experiences.

County commissioner Cathy Rhoden, who leads a county task force aimed at combating opioid abuse, hosted the town hall and warned the audience that parts of the video were disturbing.

"But you know what? The truth, when it comes out, it will set you free," she said. "It's a hard thing to look at sometimes, but that's why tonight we want to show parents what addiction really looks like."

Becoming an addict

As a teenager, Mr. Spivey began making bad decisions and hanging out with others doing the same. He graduated BCHS with good grades and a chance to study engineering at the University of Florida. He opted for community college instead so he could stay near his friends and his favorite drugs.

"By the time I graduated high school I was already addicted to powder cocaine, marijuana and alcohol, and by my third semester at college ... I lost my scholarship, lost everything, and had to get a job trimming trees," recalled Mr. Spivey.

After working a full week in 1997 he brought home \$187, or less than \$5 per hour.

"It was one of the lowest paid jobs you could get because everybody out there was a dope head," he said. "... And that's where I spent the next eight, 10 years of my life, on and off with them."

He continued to do drugs and eventually lost his drivers license for DUI around 2007.

"I really went downhill, couldn't get a job anymore. Started smoking crack. Started injecting pills ..."

In 2011 a stranger at a gas station who spotted his needle marks taught him how to make meth. A year later he was arrested for doing so and served a few months in jail before heading to the Christian-based drug treat-



Gary Christmas speaks about his battle with meth addiction.

ment program Teen Challenge.

"What I tell kids all the time is that my problem wasn't drugs, it was me. I was raised in a crazy home and became a rebel ... When I came to Teen Challenge and encountered men who had come out of that lifestyle, they had some rules to follow. A whole bunch of them. It wasn't easy, but I was able to stay there ...," he said.

He now advises others with addiction and helps raise awareness about substance abuse issues through forums like the town hall held last week.

He says giving back in those ways has aided his recovery.

"It's a huge, huge part because it shines a light on me and keeps me accountable," he said. "I have a lot of people watching. I do this a lot. God's called me to do it. The county expects me to do it. But really it's kind of selfish because it helps me. It keeps me busy. I don't have any idle time and I have all these people watching me. It's played a huge part for me, a huge part."

Mr. Christmas, who moved to Baker County at 12 years old, said he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior at age 10. But as he moved into his teenage years, he started running with the wrong crowd and experimenting with marijuana and alcohol.

By his early 20s, he was addicted to cocaine and meth. By his 30s he said he'd moved on to "just about every drug imaginable."

told me to put you out of my house ... If you're hungry, I'll feed you on my porch. If you're thirsty you can drink from my water hose."

"She'd never done this before but I knew she meant business so I gathered my things and walked out," recounted Ms. Harvey.

After doing more drugs she would return a few days later sobbing on her hands and knees in the middle of the night. That's when she said God spoke to her and led her to sobriety.

"I haven't looked back and been on a road serving God ever since. God has turned my mess into a message for His glory. He is using me to help other addicts by giving them hope in Jesus Christ ...," she said.

Where to turn for help

After the panelists spoke, those in the audience posed questions for the speakers and others in the room, including several social service agencies, including the Teen Challenge program.

"We're looking to help people with addiction," Sheriff Scotty Rhoden said to open the event. "We're not looking to arrest people.

We're looking for the people that are pushing the drugs to our children and our community. Those are the ones we're aggressively after."

While Mr. Spivey credits law enforcement with giving him a chance to turn his life around through Teen Challenge, there are other resources available, too, many of which were in attendance that evening, including Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Fifth Street Center and the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition with its program for mothers suffering from addiction.

One man in the audience spoke his son's addiction and how treatment hasn't worked for him. He didn't know what else to do.

"You never know when someone's going to get tired of it," said Mr. Spivey. "Just don't give up. There will come a day when he gets tired of it. There will come a day when the drugs don't work anymore."

Emma Phillips of Healthy Start told the audience of a resource 24-hour line manned by Lutheran Services of Florida to connect those seeking drug treatment to resources. The number is 1-877-229-9098.

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Annual Cherokee powwow April 5-7

The annual Cherokee of Georgia Spring Powwow is scheduled for April 5, 6 and 7 in St. George, GA.

The festivities include children's activities, native demonstrations, flute players, storytellers and food and crafts for sale. There will be guided field trips on Thursday and Friday and the powwow admission is free whether camping over night or parking and leaving. Concessions will include Indian fry bread and chili, hot dogs, fries and beverages.

Festivities begin at 9 a.m. all three days with the "grand entry and intertribal dancing set for 7 p.m. Friday. There will be two grand entries Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The grounds and bathrooms are handicap accessible. Only service animals are welcome and no photography, drugs, alcohol or firearms are permitted.

The address is 110 Cherokee Way, St. George, GA. Call (904) 446-7223, email cherokeefga@att.net or visit the group's Facebook page, Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Grounds, for more information.

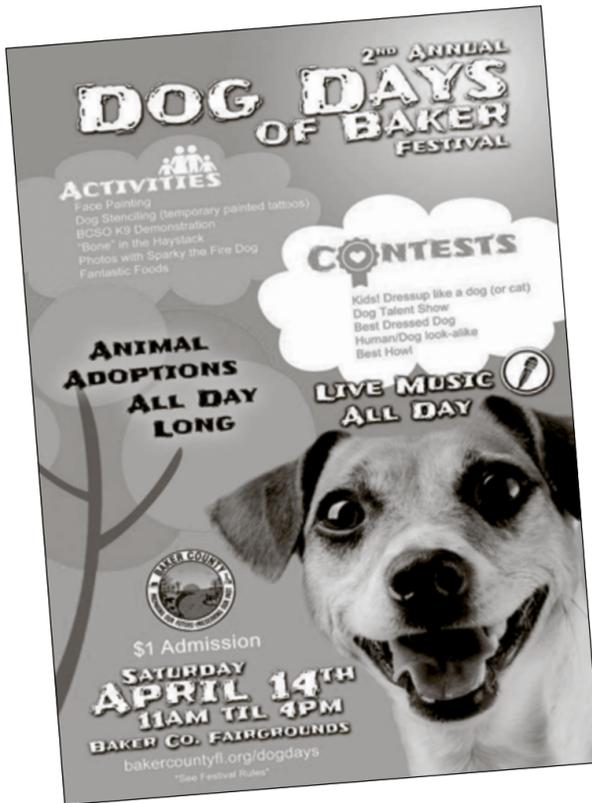
COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seeks grant to enhance animal shelter

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
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In its quest to boost pet adoption rate above 50 percent this year, the county has applied for nearly \$20,000 in grant funds to extend the roof at the Steel Bridge Road shelter to cover the outdoor portion of kennels and the sidewalks visitors use to peruse the dogs, as well as purchase software to make marketing the dogs and cats

online much easier. County manager Kenie Downing, the owner of multiple dogs herself, announced the move at last week's county Animal Advisory Committee meeting March 27. The grant application deadline was the following day, so she said she submitted it without the panel's input. One of the advisory committee's charges was to find ways to reduce the number of animals euthanized at the



the department's first adoption software, "ShelterLuv," to "automate our monthly reporting, create electronic files of each animal so we can upload photos and descriptions to various websites to advertise for adoption, accept fees online and create a record to track animal control call-outs," reads the application.

Ms. Downing described the software as "simple and very intuitive." Today records are kept on paper and manually entered into spreadsheets on a computer at the shelter to calculate adoption rates and the like.

"It's much less time consuming," said animal control director Georgia Monfort of using the software. The software costs \$4 per adoption, which would've been about \$3800 last year.

"I know there's a maximum we'll reach, but I think we can get over 50 percent," said the county manager, adding if the number of adoptions increases perhaps more volunteers will step forward to help boost them even higher.

Looking farther into the future, Ms. Monfort said another large need is for additional kennel space, particularly for sick animals that need to be quarantined.

She said today a sick dog takes up four kennels, two on either side and one across the walkway.

Some vets, committee members said, have isolation rooms for such animals that include floor drains for washing.

Dog Days festival nearly set

The advisory board also provided updates on planning for the second annual Dog Days of Baker Festival scheduled for April 14 at the fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entry is \$1 and offers access to all the activities and contests during the festival, including face painting, temporary dog tattoos, sheriff's K9 demonstration, costume/best-dressed contests for dogs and kids, dog talent show and howling contest.

There will be watering and bathing stations for dogs, a quilt raffle to benefit county animal control and at least one food vendor serving hot dogs, snacks and drinks. Additional vendors spots are available for \$25 a booth.

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shelter, which has space for some 42 dogs in the kennels. According to the application for the \$50,000 maximum grant, the county took in 956 animals last year and the shelter's "live release rate," which includes adoptions and the release of captured animals to their owners, was 50.3 percent,

meaning the remaining 49.7 percent were euthanized.

In 2016, the live release rate was even less at 45 percent.

The application also demonstrated the tight budget for county animal control, stating that two full-time animal control officers account for about \$88,000 of the department's roughly \$117,000 budget, with the remainder going to operations and maintenance of the dog kennel and adjacent "cat house," a converted mobile home used mainly to cage felines.

The first request in the application, \$15,560 for extending a metal roof over the outdoor kennels and sidewalk, should benefit both the dogs and visitors.

"We thought it'd be a great idea to get some awnings ... to protect the kennels and potential patrons on the sidewalks," explained Ms. Downing. "In the summer it gets awfully hot and it would be nice if the dogs and the people could get a little bit of shade while they're talking to the [animal control] officers. The longer they spend with the dog, the more likely they are to adopt it."

The county has also sought bids for a new roof at the shelter with better insulation to keep the facility cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

The second request, for

Arrest for meth in a pocket

Police arrested a Macclenny man in the early hours of March 29 for possession of meth after finding .3 grams of the drug in his pocket during a traffic stop.

Deputy Jeffrey Higginbotham pulled over James Harris, 24, shortly after 1:30 a.m. after the motorcyclist rode past the stop line at Ohio Avenue while traveling north on West Boulevard. Mr. Harris' words were "labored and slurred," according to the deputy, and the suspect admitted to taking pain medication a few hours earlier.

A search of Mr. Harris uncovered a small baggie containing a white, powdery substance in his front pocket, which he freely admitted to being methamphetamine.

In other drug-related incidents:

• Kelsey Keaton, 20, of Jacksonville was jailed the morning of March 31 after she was caught attempting to smuggle marijuana and synthetic marijuana into Baker Correctional in the west county.

Deputy Jared Millard met with a prison officer, who said she found three small bags wrapped in electric tape inside Ms. Keaton's potato chip bag. The suspect was inside the visitation area awaiting a visit with an inmate, according to the deputy.

The first bag tested positive for .5 grams of marijuana. The second and third bags — one containing a green, leafy substance and a red, leafy substance — both weighed .7 grams. Deputy Millard identified the substance as synthetic marijuana, but did not have the proper test kit to test the substance.

Ms. Keaton denied ownership or knowledge of the substance, Deputy Millard reported.

She was arrested for felony smuggling contraband into a prison and misdemeanor counts of possession of marijuana and possession of synthetic cannaboid.

• Ritchaino Gaston, 21, of Jacksonville was jailed the evening of March 23 after Detective Keith Parker found the same synthetic drug in small baggies pulled from his pocket.

The suspect was a passenger in a Nissan stopped in south Macclenny for possible involvement in an unrelated incident.

• Craig Blackburn, 36, of Glen St. Mary was arrested the evening of March 27 for possession of a small amount of marijuana and resisting without violence.

Detectives Kenneth Parker and Buck Dyal made contact with the suspect, and Det. Parker had Mr. Blackburn empty his pockets. Mr. Blackburn had to be physically restrained after he snatched away from Det. Parker and turned toward the officer saying, "Get your hands off me," as the detective began a pat search.

Police found one marijuana cigarette in with a pack of regular cigarettes.

• Officer David Burnsed of the state game enforcement agency FWC arrested James Johnson, 24, of St. George, GA on March 25 for possession of a marijuana pipe taken from a pants pocket.

The officer was patrolling in the Bethea management area in the north county when he came upon the suspect walking with a fishing pole. He didn't have a license, and had an outstanding warrant for an unspecified offense.

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Accused of failing to make payments

The sheriff's department filed complaints for shoplifting at Walmart recently, and another complaint on a Macclenny woman who neglected to keep up payments on rented electronics.

Rent-A-Vision in Macclenny named Sharonda Keith, 30, in a March 19 complaint for grand theft of a television, laptop and Playstation with a combined value of \$1880.

Deputy Andrew Thames filed the complaint several days later after obtaining the serial numbers on the items. The company claimed she rented a 60-inch television a year ago, the laptop and Playstation in late 2016 and made only sporadic, small payments up to last August.

• Nicholas Parker, 39, of Macclenny was named in a complaint on March 25 for attempting to steal a pair of shoes and an electric razor from Walmart, items valued at \$72.

He was observed by a security employee putting the shoes on and leaving an old pair, then later concealing the razor under his shirt.

• Five days earlier, a complaint was filed on Franklin Thornton, 32, and April Moore, 27, of the same Umatilla, FL address, alleging they changed price labels on several clothing items, a book and door knob before going through self-checkout.

• A surveillance video obtained by police on March 23 implicated Julie Rousseau, 47, of Macclenny in the theft of \$56 worth of merchandise by changing price tags taken from shot glasses worth 20 cents each.

She had two other items in a purse, according to a police report.

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CIRCUIT COURT

Drug dealers plea before trials

A circuit judge last week sentenced two local career criminals to lengthy prison terms after they entered no contest pleas just prior to scheduled trials.

Arthel Church, 45, of Macclenny, was sent off for



Arthel Church

12 years on a variety of drug-related charges stemming from sales to confidential informants working for the sheriff's department last year.

Mr. Church was on a five-year federal probation at the time after serving more than 15 years in custody, according to court records. Because the recent cases of selling cocaine and prescription drugs took place within 1000 feet of Keller Intermediate School he must serve a minimum of three years.

His most recent offenses other than sale included possession with intent to sell, maintaining a nuisance where drugs are used or sold and possession of paraphernalia.

Another Macclenny drug dealer, Larry Major, drew a sentence of six years after pleading to a variety of counts dating back to set-up transactions in the south city last year involving opiates or derivative drugs.

Mr. Major, then 23, was arrested at his residence in late November as part of a



Larry Major

dragnet that brought in nearly two dozen suspects connected to the local drug trade. He served a one-year prison sentence for possession of synthetic meth and was released a year ago.

He has past convictions for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, drug sales in 2015 and 2017, armed robbery in 2015, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and shooting into a building.

In other prison sentences, all ordered on March 27:

- Jeremy Stafford, 33, admitted to violating probation on 2017 convictions for felony possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and will serve five years.

Court records show the violations involved changing residences without notifying a probation officer, and an arrest in February for sale and trafficking in meth.

- Antonio Shapiro, 26, was given just over 30 months by Judge James Colaw for violating probation for aggravated assault in 2016. He also changed residences, and failed to report to his probation officer,

failed to pay supervision costs and tested positive in January for marijuana use.

- Another convicted felon with prior prison terms, Lewis Churchville II, 31, will go back for three years for violating a drug offender



Lewis Churchville II

probation imposed on him last November. He has an extensive record of 13 convictions for offenses ranging from felony battery to grand theft and credit card fraud.

Mr. Churchville served prison terms in 2018 and 2016 for some of those offenses, state records indicate. He violated probation when arrested in March for possession of meth.

- Anthony Rhoden, 26, was given an 18-month term for violating probation for 2015 convictions for possessing a listed chemical and drug paraphernalia. He recently tested positive for both meth and marijuana and lied to his probation officer about continued drug use.

- Amanda Bozeman, 25, will serve a year and seven days for violating probation for sale of a substance in lieu of a controlled drug. She changed residences.

- The same offense, coupled with failure to pay

finances and leaving residential treatment early resulted in a one-year, seven day term for Cody Davis, 20, who earlier was convicted on two counts of dealing in stolen property.

- Nathan West, 19, got a similar term for violating probation on two counts of burglary in 2016. He changed residences, refused to take a drug test and failed to complete treatment.

In non-prison sentences that day:

- Marco Terrell, possession of paraphernalia and prescription drugs, non-assigned license tag, no valid license; three days in jail, 18-month probation.

- Matthew Weichman, driving while license suspended, non-assigned tag; three days in jail, one-year probation, obtain a driver's license.

- Bobby Jones Jr., bringing forged bank bills into the state; 98 days in jail, 30-month probation.

- Donald Holland, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license; 22 days in jail, 18-month probation.

- James Render III, sale and possession of opium or derivatives (two counts); one-year house arrest, four-year drug offender probation, addiction evaluation.

- Justin Davis, burglary, grand theft; four-year drug offender probation, addiction evaluation.

Judge Colaw ordered the arrest of Noah Starling, who failed to keep a court date for dealing in stolen property.

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Battery on 'ex's' girlfriend

A criminal complaint was filed on March 25 naming Sarah Dugger, 25, of Macclenny for battery on her ex-boyfriend's current girlfriend at a residence in the north city that afternoon.

Deputy Andrew Thames said he spoke with Shelby Qualls, 20, of Sanderson at Fraser Hospital where she sought treatment for abrasions and scratches allegedly inflicted by Ms. Dugger while the former sat in a vehicle near the residence of her boyfriend Justin O'Neill, 34, on North Fifth Street.

Ms. Qualls said she was approached by the accused, listed as a corrections officer at Baker Correctional, who then pummeled her with her fist before leaving the premises. Deputy Thames said Mr. O'Neill gave a version of events consistent with those of Ms. Qualls.

- Deputy Chad Montean arrested a

17-year-old north Macclenny male on March 30 and charged with him battery of his 53-year-old mother at their residence on East Ohio Avenue.

The mother claimed she was pushed down four times, and the deputy noted she was lying on the ground outside their residence when he arrived at the scene.

She further claimed her son became violent when she prevented him from leaving with a vehicle because they had recently been to Fraser Hospital where he as given medication for an undisclosed condition.

A surveillance video bore out the mother's version of events, said the deputy, who added she appeared to be under the influence of medication.

The accused's girlfriend, who witnessed the incident, said the teen became angry when he was accused of lying.

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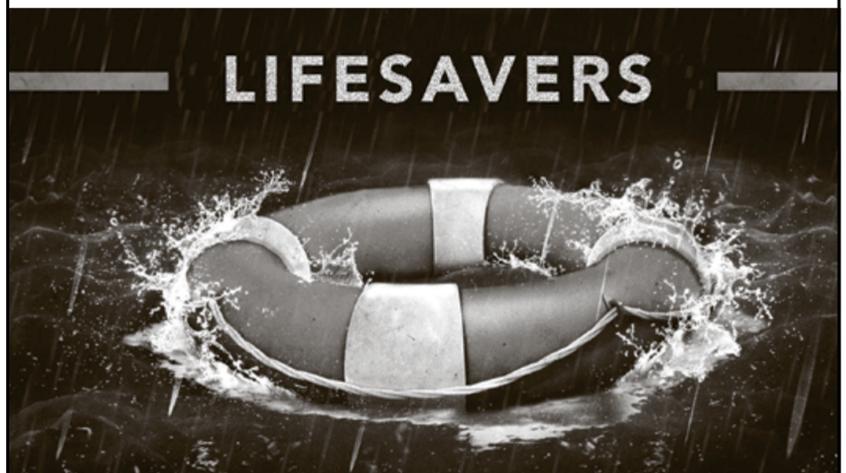
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OPINION

Trashing 2nd Amendment isn't in the cards

Though it's subsided somewhat, the clamor continues to trash the Second Amendment guaranteeing the right to bear arms (own guns). To many of those in the movement, and somewhat older activists not ashamed of using teens to advance their agenda, it would seem a matter of simple voiding the amendment — one of the 10 in our foundation Bill of Rights.

Good luck — it ain't gonna happen.

A naive notion of how to fix their problem with guns is perhaps understandable. A disturbing number of high school students don't know the name of their state governor,

much less the purposely difficult process to add or subtract an amendment.

The former has happened 27 times since the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1789; the latter but once with the repeal of the 18th Amendment (prohibition).

To pass an amendment, change its wording or add one, two-thirds of the U.S. House and Senate must agree and it must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Or, constitutional conventions by two-thirds of the states can initiate it, but it still has to pass the "three-fourths" ratification process.

Considering the prickliness of sentiment on both sides of the gun debate, the odds of

amendment word altering or elimination are slim indeed.

Yours truly remains troubled by the fact that all these firearm-based outrages in school buildings, night clubs and other public venues have at their core the more troublesome and elusive elements of mental illness, estrangement from the public mainstream and, particularly in the case of the Parkland massacre, repeated warnings of impending disaster broadcast by the shooters themselves.

The guns are the passive players in these tragedies. They are inert objects put to evil use.

The missed signals at Parkland will be archived forever in the annals of bureaucrat-

ic incompetence of maddening and massive proportions. That Parkland students amassed at Tallahassee and Washington and didn't focus on the publicly-funded agencies charged with protecting them is astounding in its folly. Whether states adequately fund mental health services can be debated, but not in the Parkland case.

This is not to argue that anti-gun folks should not push for tighter rules on allowing legal gun access to persons with unhealthy mental history, or the ability of states to remove firearms from their possession with due process. The risk can be minimized beyond what authorities (not the incompetent ones) can legally do in 2018.

True reform must fall short of believing the Second Amendment is going away.

Impressions

Jim McGauley

Annual ritual of spring cleaning is full of other pitfalls

Well ... it's that time of year. Yep. Spring cleaning.

It's not that I dislike spring cleaning; it's just that I know that when I am done, I will run into an unusual problem.

I won't be able to find anything I cleaned up.

I find that baffling. I spend all this time rearranging stuff — in my office, in the kitchen cabinets in the various junk drawers and for a day or two feel very good about myself. I walk into my office and I don't have to step over books and papers to get to my desk. I can sit in the chair and admire all my neat shelves and arranged knick knacks.

Then the unthinkable happens, as it did today on Day 1 of spring cleaning. I sat down to practice my guitar and it was nowhere to be found.

I asked Kelley, who answered, "I think it was on the dining room table."

"The dining room table we cleaned off for Easter?"

"Check your office." Now that was the problem. I had just spent two hours straightening up my office before doing a deep cleaning later this week. At no point did I run across my sheet music.

That sent me on a 30-minute quest that made Sunday's egg hunt pale in comparison. I looked around, under and through in a fruitless search.

"Do you think you threw it out?"

"No, I didn't throw it out. Did you look in the bedroom?"

"Yes. And the bathroom and the living room and in your book bag."

"Why did you look in my book bag?"

"Because it is the Elephant Graveyard of papers. It could easily have migrated there."

"But it didn't."

"No." I never did find it. It went where all things go after Spring Cleaning. Limbo.

I sort of understand that. As I clean up I put things in what I consider new and better places that make much more sense at the time. That's what I did a couple of months ago with my car payment booklet. I put it in a great new place ... limbo, never to be seen again.

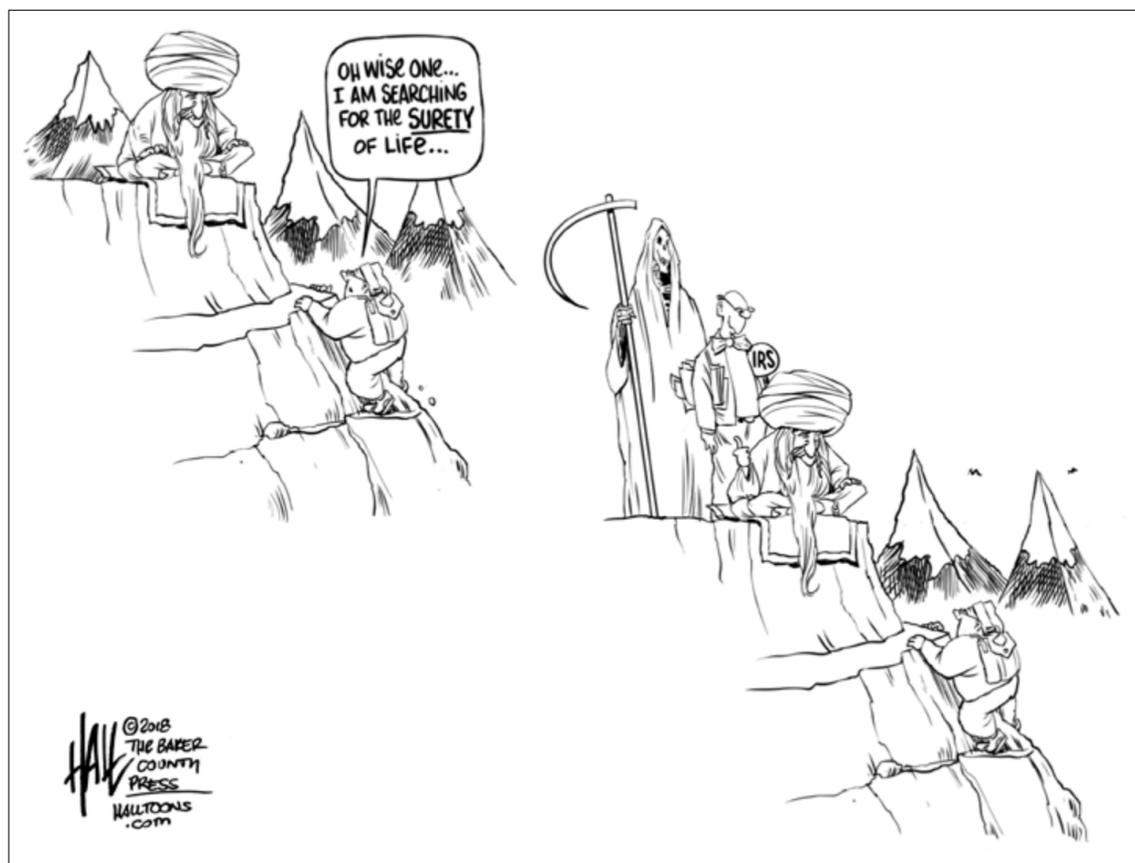
It is somewhere that makes absolutely perfect sense that it should be there. Only I have no idea where that new place is. It's like changing a password on your computer. The new one makes perfect sense — for the 20 minutes that you remember it. And ... it made such perfect sense that you don't bother to write it down. Or if you do, you put it somewhere that makes absolutely perfect sense for it to be there. With your sheet music and car payment book and the key to the padlock on that shed you never go in. Limbo.

I'm convinced that when you die, if you go to the bad place, you immediately remember where all the things that you have ever lost are located. That X-Men No. 5 comic book, your child's binky, 12 sets of car keys, 38 flashlights, 49 single socks, two expired drivers licenses, 22 computer passwords. The list is endless. But you can't get to them and it wouldn't do a bit of good if you could. And as you see them all on a shelf in plain sight there is a demon on your shoulder laughing in your ear.

The Demon of Spring Cleaning.

My Side of the Matter

Robert Gerard



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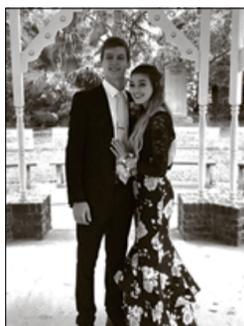
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54 likes a.norman0309 More Easter fun yesterday created a little monster! She is now completely obsessed with bubbles, finding eggs, and drinking #thesweetlifeofbrinley



7 likes jamestgiant Congratulations to Ms Bobbi Thrift on her retirement from the Baker County Building Department! Thank You for over 20 years of service to the citizens of Baker County.

Correction

Jeff Anderson was incorrectly identified last week as the defendant receiving a one-year prison sentence in circuit court for a probation violation. The sentence was given to Jonathan Anderson.



87 likes a.norman0309 First Easter egg hunt for our Bessy #thesweetlifeofbrinley #hesageo #thenormans

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COUNTY LAND PLANNING AGENCY

Milton leaving for private sector

Possible delay in petitions

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Nearly two years after he became the head of the county's combined land development, building and zoning departments, renamed the Community Development Department, Chris Milton is leaving the post for the private sector.

He'll soon be working in the land acquisition department of KB Homes and earning a substantially higher salary, which he says was a big factor in the move. "It's an opportunity that has been in the works over the last four months, and definitely not a decision I made overnight," Mr. Milton posted on Facebook March 28.

"I have worked for Baker County for 13 years now and realize how truly blessed I've been. I've met some awesome people along the way that I'm now glad to call good friends. I never had intentions of going elsewhere, but it's amazing where God will take you when you step out on faith. I will be able to provide for my family at a level that I've never been able to before."

His last day is April 28.

With Mr. Milton's secretary, Bobbi Thrift, retiring this month as well, the department will need new leadership soon.

Mr. Milton said during last week's Land Planning Agency (LPA) meeting the Northeast Florida Regional Council may be able to bridge the gap until a new director for the department is hired.

Ms. Thrift's replacement, Julia Cox, is now being trained.

Still, the LPA board is in the midst of rewriting major portions of the county's land development regulations and is about to embark on a rewrite of the county's comprehensive plan, which happens every five years.

"It's not the best time for me to be leaving," Mr. Milton admitted the evening of

"I never had intentions of going elsewhere ... I will be able to provide for my family at a level I've never been able to do before"

—Chris Milton,

outgoing community development director



March 29.

In light of the impending staffing shortage, LPA members voted to pare back its twice monthly meeting schedule to once a month.

The final meeting with Mr. Milton will be April 12 when the board considers two applications:

- One is an appeal from Lee & Baker Properties, Inc. of Mr. Milton's determination that a proposed subdivision plan would not conform to the county's codes, specifically a requirement that lots close to the City of Macclenny's centralized water and sewer system hook into that system and a prohibition on subdivisions with unpaved roads.

The address of the 15-acre property is 4385 Wolfe Drive with access to the unpaved portion of the roadway off South Fifth Street.

Jack Baker Jr. of Lee & Baker Properties notified the LPA board in February of his impending request, which he said would help him avoid costly expenses related to road paving and hooking up to the city's water and sewer system.

At that time Mr. Milton said Mr. Baker proposed using less expensive gravel to harden the road and installing wells and septic systems for each of the lots.

"Mr. Baker is proposing a subdivision of seven, 1.6-acre-plus lots accessed by a privately maintained, unpaved road," explained Mr. Milton this week by email. "The county LDRs (land development regulations) do not allow unpaved roads for new subdivisions. Mr. Baker wants the lots to have septic and wells, rather than tying into the city water and sewer system, which is required by Baker County LDRs and the comprehensive plan."

Previously, Mr. Baker said he preferred to develop the property with seven lots

in that fashion rather than selling more lots of a smaller size to cover costs associated with the new infrastructure.

Macclenny's water and sewer hookup fees vary but the cost is generally about \$1700 per unit when utilities exist on the same side of the road as the lots to be connected and about \$2800 when they exist directly across the street up to 40 feet away.

The Florida Department of Transportation estimates the cost of constructing an undivided two-lane rural road with 5-foot paved shoulders at more than \$2.2 million per mile.

Mr. Baker also previously estimated his cost for the infrastructure at roughly \$200,000.

- The second request set to be heard later this month from Jeremy and Lydia Pons for a variance in the permitted uses at their 8-acre property at 9821 Pine Top Road in Glen St. Mary.

The couple wants to use the site for a kennel, which is only allowed in the agriculture zoning district with an approved special exception from the county.

"Mr. and Mrs. Pons want to move their pet grooming and kennel business (Bed, Bath, & Barks) from US 90 to their home on Pine Top Road. Baker County LDRs allow these types of businesses on Agriculturally-zoned properties by special exception," said Mr. Milton.

Felon is stopped with ammunition

A convicted felon from Glen St. Mary was arrested about midday March 30 for possession of ammunition after he was stopped for driving on a suspended license.

Deputy Shane Dickens pulled over 40-year-old Travis Tyson, who the officer knew had a suspended license, on Crews Road after seeing him behind the wheel of a 2006 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck. Dispatch confirmed Mr. Tyson had multiple active suspensions, the tag attached to the truck was not assigned to it and the assigned tag was expired, according to the officer's report.

Deputy Dickens also found two rounds of .380 ACP ammunition in the truck.

Mr. Tyson was sentenced to 21 months in prison in October, 2013 for child neglect and possession of drugs without a prescription. He earlier served prison time for a string of burglaries in 2010 and 2011.

- Eugene Farmer, 20, of Macclenny was jailed the morning of March 30 on a Union County warrant after he was located at a West Minnesota Avenue residence.

- Trooper K.W. Frost of the Florida Highway Patrol arrested a 16-year-old female from Sanderson for DUI the afternoon of March 26 after questioning her in the parking lot of Wendy's in Macclenny.

The girl had been involved in an argument with restaurant employees witnessed by troopers Frost and Dan Myers. She was described as belligerent and cursing at the officers.

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Photo courtesy of Sherrie Raulerson

Retirees honored for 30, 35 years of work

School district retirees LuAnne Williams (left) and Gail Brown (right) were honored last week for their years of service to the school district and community. Ms. Brown worked in the school system for 30 years as a classroom teacher, dean of students, vice principal and principal at Baker County High, Westside Elementary and Keller Intermediate schools. She continues to train substitute teachers, as well as new teachers. Ms. Williams worked 35 years in the school district as a kindergarten teacher, assistant principal and principal at Macclenny Elementary School. She was also a principal at Westside. After retirement, Ms. Williams taught at the Adult Education Center for two and a half years. "Together these individuals have made great contributions to the Baker County School District and our community," said a district press release from Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson (center). Both retirees were feted March 27 during the Baker County Education Foundation's annual Leaving a Legacy dinner to benefit the foundation's student scholarships and mini-grants for teachers. For more information about the foundation, please visit <https://www.bakerk12.org/domain/163>.

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Cervone calls for U.S. victims rights amendment

To kick off sex assault awareness month

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

During a ceremony at the courthouse last week to mark the state Sexual Assault Awareness Month, 4th Circuit State Attorney Bill Cervone called for support in amending the U.S. Constitution to protect the rights of crime victims.

"We all know the Constitution speaks very plainly about the rights of the accused," said the 25-year prosecutor on March 29. "We all know those are sometimes at odds with what we in the prosecution and law enforcement community think about things. We all know they're a part of our Constitution and they should be."

"What I'm challenging you to do is understand is that victims rights should also be a part of that same document. Surely survivors of violence of every kind ...



County officials in attendance included Clerk of Courts Stacie Harvey (second from left) and Superintendent of Schools Sherrie Raulerson (far right).

deserve the same consideration."

After reading the 150-word amendment, which addresses rights related to restitution, participation in court proceedings without unreasonable delay, notice of court hearings and offender releases or escapes and safety and privacy of victims, among others, the state attorney from Gainesville summarized the legalese as an acknowledgment that victims "stand on at least equal

footing with the offender" in the eyes of the law.

While many states have laws protecting such rights or those rights enshrined in their state constitution, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution would cover the entire country uniformly. As such, amendments to the U.S. Constitution require ratification by three-fourths of the states as well as passage by Congress.

"It's not easy, but it is worth it with this cause. My challenge to you is help those of us who are supporting it by registering your support for this very important initiative," said Mr. Cervone, who passed out copies of the amendment and where to sign the online petition at <http://www.nvcap.org/>.

He said he was inspired to do so by a young state senator from Oklahoma named Brooks Douglass who advocates for the national victims right amendment. They met at a conference of the National District Attorneys As-

sociation two weeks prior to the ceremony.

As a teenager Mr. Douglass, along with his parents and sister, were tied up and shot during a home invasion robbery in 1979 in a rural town outside of Oklahoma City. His sister was repeatedly raped, but Mr. Douglass and his sister survived. Their parents did not.

Mr. Douglass eventually became a "mover and shaker" in the victims rights movement and is now pushing for the amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which the state attorney described as a "milestone proposition for our country."

Awareness month kick-off

Mr. Cervone's call to action came during a half-hour ceremony to be organized by the Women's Center of Jacksonville and its Rape Recovery Team to kick-off a month activities to raise awareness about sexual assault. It was attended by about two dozen community partners.



State Attorney Bill Cervone

Proposed constitutional amendment for victims rights

The following rights of a crime victim, being capable of protection without denying the constitutional rights of the accused, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State. The crime victim shall have the rights to reasonable notice of, and shall not be excluded from, public proceedings relating to the offense, to be heard at any release, plea, sentencing, or other proceeding involving any right established by this article, to proceedings free from unreasonable delay, to reasonable notice of the release or escape of the accused, to due consideration of the crime victim's safety, dignity, and privacy, and to restitution. The crime victim or the crime victim's lawful representative has standing to assert and enforce these rights. Nothing in this article provides grounds for a new trial or any claim for damages. Review of the denial of any right established herein, which may include interlocutory relief, shall be subject to the standards of ordinary appellate review

Representatives from the center sat with Mr. Cervone and Captain Chris Volz of the sheriff's office under a large teal banner hung above the courthouse steps with words, "Silence Hides Violence! Rape is a crime. Talking about it isn't." Teal is the official color for the annual campaign and banner reflected this year's theme: "Use your voice."

Following a welcome and opening remarks by Baker County's victim advocate Emily Lender, center's advocacy director Sarah Wiese read aloud the proclamation declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Ms. Wiese holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and criminology and interned with the center starting in 2013 before becoming a victim advocate. She now leads the center's rape recovery team supervising victim advocates and nurse examiners in Duval, Baker and Nassau counties and coordinates sexual assault forensic examines.

"By being here today you are sending the message that Baker County supports sexual assault survivors and there are resources available," she said, pointing out the various partner agencies present including the sheriff's office, school district, health department, state attorneys office and others.

She said the month of April is used to spread awareness that sexual assault is widespread and it impacts the entire community, not just victims.

She cited statistics that one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. Among children, the sexual assault rate was one in four girls and one in six boys.

"Our words shape the world around us. Whether you speak out against locker room talk or help someone better understand these issues, your voice is powerful and necessary in this conversation," she said. "Individuals can show their support for survivors by standing up to victim blaming, shut down rape jokes, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent and practice healthy communication with kids ..."

The center's executive

director since 2016, Teresa Miles, who holds a master's degree in social work from FSU and has served as a sexual assault advocate, also addressed the audience, saying, "In communities like Baker County you have the opportunity to create a culture. And in my two years here I've seen that Baker County made a very deliberate decision to shine a light on sexual assault and not keep that in the darkness and I think

that's important and necessary for people to heal."

Capt. Volz, in turn, complimented the center for its partnership in advocating for victims.

"We are truly blessed to have such amazing partners in our community who we deal with daily such as

the Women's Center and the advocates they have ...," he said. "We're able to work together to give victims of sexual assault a platform for safety, necessary services, transportation and guidance through the criminal justice process. We hope to continue to do this at the sheriff's office with a shared vision of caring and dedication."

The ceremony was also to include a speech by Ruth Gregg, a local victim of sexual assault, but she could not attend. However, Ms. Linder, the center's Baker County advocate, shared Ms. Gregg's story on her behalf.

She was to speak about the misconception that sexual assault victims are women and the perpetrators men.

"Her story is truly amazing because her perpetrator was her own mother as a child ...," said Ms. Linder. "Victims can be men or women. Perpetrators can be men or women. It can be all genders. It can be the person standing next you."

Ms. Linder said Ms. Gregg, a 25-year psychiatric nurse, also wanted to speak about how she coped with her abuse by journaling and the importance of finding a healthy outlet for your feelings rather than continuing a cycle of abuse by abusing others.

Ms. Gregg was one of a few of her sibling who did not continue the cycle of abuse inflicted on her and her brothers and sisters.

"She wanted to drive home that you have to find your outlet and do what works for you in your healing," said Ms. Linder.



Women's Center advocacy director Sarah Wiese.



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Baker 4th friendliest for paychecks

How far does your paycheck go compared to other places in Florida? Pretty far, according to a recent study by SmartAsset, a financial tech company that based its review on taxes, purchasing power, unemployment and income growth.

The study found that Baker County ranked fourth highest in Florida behind Calhoun, Sumter and Gadsden counties. St. Johns County, typically at the top in terms of education, income, health and other measures in Florida, ranked 10th on the list.

"Our study aims to find the most paycheck friendly places in the country. These are places in the country with favorable economic conditions where you get to keep more of the money you make," stated a press release from the company.

To compare take-home pay, the study looked at semi-monthly paychecks for individuals with two personal allowances, applying the relevant deductions

TOP PAYCHECK-FRIENDLY COUNTIES IN FLORIDA

		Bi-week pay	Purchase power	Unemployment	Income growth	Score
1	Calhoun	\$1,742	1.29x	4.0%	3.6%	59.21
2	Sumter	\$1,742	1.73x	4.8%	3.3%	58.05
3	Gadsden	\$1,742	1.21x	4.3%	2.9%	56.59
4	Baker	\$1,742	1.74x	3.3%	2.5%	55.35
5	Monroe	\$1,742	1.66x	3.3%	2.3%	54.34
6	Holmes	\$1,742	1.26x	4.2%	2.2%	54.22
7	Columbia	\$1,742	1.33x	3.5%	2.1%	53.74
8	Franklin	\$1,742	1.32x	2.8%	1.7%	52.22
9	Santa Rosa	\$1,742	1.92x	3.2%	1.6%	51.94
10	Saint Johns	\$1,742	2.13x	2.7%	1.6%	51.86
	Florida	\$1,661	1.43x	3.7%	0.2%	

Source: SmartAsset.com

and exemptions before income tax withholding and assuming a \$50,000 annual income. Counties were then ranked by take-home pay.

Purchasing power was determined by comparing household incomes to the cost of living and income growth measured the rate

of growth in median income over five years.

Baker had a higher purchasing power ratio — with income being 1.74 times the cost of living — than all but two of the top 10 counties and the state as a whole, where income was 1.43 times the cost of living.

Baker County's take-home pay ranking was equal to the other top coun-

ties, but unemployment was 3.3 percent here compared to 3.7 percent statewide and 2.7 percent in St. Johns County. The county's income growth rate was 2.5 percent compared to two-tenths of a percent in Florida and 3.6 percent in Calhoun County, the top ranked in paycheck friendliness.



PHOTO BY JON SHUMAKE

Mike Spivey (left) and Thomas Gainey.

Drug prevention rally aimed at teens is set for April 13

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

A Day of Hope Inc. will present a Teen Challenge rally the night of April 13 at Baker County High School, which will feature free food, music and a drug prevention message aimed at middle and high school students.

The program is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. following a complimentary meal provided by the Ale House for the first 75 attendees at 5.

Singers who are involved with Teen Challenge, a program that helps people dealing with addiction, will perform for about 30 minutes before the Stay Sharp drug-prevention program. Stay Sharp — standing for Sharing Hope with At Risk People — is an 11-minute video broken into segments, and people will share their stories between each portion, Mike Spivey explained.

"We try not to scare people. We try to educate and let them know that you don't have to do this," said Mr. Spivey, a Glen St. Mary resident who has been involved with Jacksonville's Teen Challenge Men's Center since July, 2012 and will celebrate six years of sobriety on April 5. "It's not about having fun. It's not about being cool. It's about being smart and taking care of your future."

His story will be one of several told that night in an effort to educate teenagers about the dangers of drugs.

"I was accepted to the University of Florida engineering program straight out of high school, but because I didn't make wise decisions that focused in that direction I ended up a drug addict a few years later," he said. "That's what we hope to let them see. If you play around and make bad decisions you'll end up bit so to speak."

The rally is the third-annual event hosted by A Day of Hope Inc. after the nonprofit held concerts each of the previous two years. Founder Thomas Gainey, a Macclenny resident, first learned of Teen Challenge when he sent his son to the center in Bonifay, FL in 2006, and the organization had a presence at the first two "A Day of Hope" events.

"I count it a great honor to come in with these guys, team with these guys," Mr. Gainey said.

The upcoming rally is several years in the making, Mr. Gainey said. He said he and Mr. Spivey showed Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson the Stay Sharp program three years ago.

Now, the timing is right to have it move forward.

"Here he was turning his mess into a message so to speak in his own life. I just think three years ago God was putting people in place for such a time as this," Mr. Gainey said. "... The stars have aligned so to speak. You've two passionate people here that love our hometown and we just want to do something."

A Day of Hope Inc. is planning several more events through the summer. Mr. Gainey said he would like to partner with other community groups for a backpack giveaway in July, and has put in a deposit at the middle school for August 29 to have Pam Stenzel, an abstinence-only Christian speaker, give a presentation.

But he hopes the rally on April 13 is one of many more between A Day of Hope Inc. and Teen Challenge.

"I would hope we could do a Teen Challenge rally every year and maybe grow it every year," Mr. Gainey said.

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CITY OF MACCLENNY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LANDS CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY OF MACCLENNY AND COMPANION AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND ZONING MAP

The City Commission of the City of Macclenny, Florida shall consider Ordinance No. 18-07, "A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ANNEXATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LANDS CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY OF MACCLENNY; PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION REQUEST FROM JOEL AND KIMBERLY WILKINSON OF PARCEL 31-25-22-0021-0002-0070; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE." The Subject Property consists of approximately 1.00 acre located on the north side of Christie Court, west of Suzanne Drive (see map below).



Ordinance No. 18-07 will cause the Subject Property to be classified Low Density Residential on the City's FLUM and Residential, Single-family, RS-2 on the City's Zoning Map.

FIRST READING: A public hearing on the first reading of the proposed Ordinance will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. There shall be no vote by the City Commission regarding this Ordinance at this meeting. The City Commission meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the adoption of the proposed amendment.

COMMISSION VOTE: A public hearing requiring City Commission action on the proposed Ordinance will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. The City Commission meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the adoption of the proposed annexation.

The complete legal description by metes and bounds and the proposed Ordinance may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk at City Hall on Monday through Friday during regular business hours. Should any person decide to appeal any decision made as a result of this hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of these proceedings is made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Manager at (904) 259-0972 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 02-2018-CP-13

IN RE: The Estate Of THERESA LYNN CLOUSE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION

Summary Administration of the Estate of THERESA LYNN CLOUSE, deceased, file number 02-2018-CP-13, has been filed in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, located at 339 E. Macclenny, FL 32063. The name and address of the person sending this notice is: Donald C. Clouse, P.O. Box 592, Sanderson, Florida 32087. The name and address of the Petitioner's attorney is: Joseph L. Mannikko, Esq., P.O. Box 1667, Macclenny, FL 32063.

All claims against the estate must be filed within the time period set forth in FS § 733.702, or, as to creditors required to be served, 30 days after the date of service of this notice on the creditor or be forever barred. Date of first publication is March 29, 2018.

/s/Joseph L. Mannikko JOSEPH L. MANNIKKO

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

I certify a copy of the foregoing and the Petition for Summary Administration were served on the following persons: Florida Dept of Revenue, Mail Stop 1-3841, 5050 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee, FL 32399 and Agency for Healthcare Admin - FL Medicaid Estate Recovery Program, PO Box 12188, Tallahassee, FL 32317 by certified mail, return receipt requested on March 21, 2018.

Attorney for Petitioner: MANNIKKO & BARIS /s/ Joseph L. Mannikko Florida Bar No.: 383120 P.O. Box 1667 Macclenny, Florida 32063 904.259.4134 800.986.6018 fax joe@greatlaw.net horsenut@greatlaw.net lcanterbury331@gmail.com 3/29-4/5c

AVISO DE ELECCIONES GENERALES

Yo, Ken Detzner, Secretario de Estado del Estado de la Florida, por el presente notifico que se llevarán a cabo ELECCIONES GENERALES en el Condado de BAKER, Estado de la Florida, el día SEIS de NOVIEMBRE de 2018 d. C., para determinar la ocupación o la renuncia de los siguientes cargos:

- Senador de los Estados Unidos
- Representante ante el Congreso: distrito 5
- Gabinete de la Florida - Gobernador
- Gabinete de la Florida - Vicegobernador
- Gabinete de la Florida - Procurador General
- Gabinete de la Florida - Funcionario Principal de Finanzas
- Gabinete de la Florida - Comisionado de Agricultura
- Representante Estatal: distrito 10
- Juez del Circuito, 8.º Circuito Judicial: grupos 3, 4, 5 y 8
- Juez del Condado: grupo 1
- Junta Escolar: distritos 2, 3 y 4
- Comisionado del Condado: distritos 2 y 4
- Distrito de Conservación de Tierra y Agua de Baker: grupos 1, 2, 3, 4 y 5

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in BAKER County, State of Florida, on the SIXTH Day of NOVEMBER, 2018, A.D., to retain the following offices:

- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress: District 5
- Florida Cabinet-Governor
- Florida Cabinet-Lieutenant Governor
- Florida Cabinet-Attorney General
- Florida Cabinet-Chief Financial Officer
- Florida Cabinet- Commissioner of Agriculture
- State Representative: District 10
- Circuit Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit: Groups 3, 4, 5 and 8
- County Judge: Group 1
- School Board: Districts 2, 3 and 4
- County Commissioner: Districts 2 and 4
- Baker Soil and Water Conservation District: Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

4/5-4/12c
A, R&R, Inc.
 11837 N SR 121
 Macclenny, FL 32063

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction on April 20, 2018 at 10:00 am at A, R&R, Inc. 11837 N SR 121, Macclenny, FL 32063:

2015 Dodge Challenger
 VIN# 2C3CDZFJ0FH713317
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix
 VIN# 2G2WR5G4761104720
2003 TLM Trailer
 VIN# 2NM01AAH731004741

4/5c
Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery Inc.
 7611 West Mt. Vernon St.
 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction on April 20, 2018 at 10:00 am at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery 7611 West Mt. Vernon St., Glen St. Mary, FL 32040:

2008 Lincoln MKZ
 VIN# 3LNHM26T18R657773

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 April 20, 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.

1997 Ford Ranger
 VIN# 1FTCR10AXVT85856
2000 Buick LeSabre
 VIN# 1G4HR54K3YU223375
2001 Honda Accord
 VIN# 1HGGC16521A071537
1994 Mazda PUJ
 VIN# 4F4CR12A6RTM81423

4/5c
CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 2017-CA-000116

RM 30A Properties, LLC, Plaintiff, v. Macclenny Storage, LLC, Defendant.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

To all creditors and other parties interested in the property owned by Macclenny Storage, LLC, known as All Safe Mini Storage, located at 190 South Lowder Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063 (the "Macclenny Property"), please take notice that:

- On December 18, 2017, Plaintiff filed a Complaint asserting an undivided interest in the Macclenny Property.
- Subsequent to the filing of the Complaint, several individuals and entities have asserted claims relating to the Macclenny Property.
- Pursuant to Court Order, all creditors and other persons having claims or demands against Macclenny Storage, LLC must file their claims with the Court in the above-referenced case ON OR BEFORE 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THIS TIME PERIOD WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is April 5, 2018.

Geddes D. Anderson, Jr. 1501 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207 904-598-8282 ganderson@murphyandersonlaw.com 4/5-4/26c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 2018 CP-11

In Re: The Estate Of CLAUDE W. BLACKWELL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the administration of the Estate of Claude W. Blackwell, Deceased, has been opened in the Circuit Court in and for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the physical address of which is 329 Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. Loretta F. Rowe has been appointed as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Claude W. Blackwell, whose address for purposes of this publication is Law Office of Suzanne C. Quiñonez, Post Office Box 130, Middleburg, FL 32050-0130.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections, challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to file their objections with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims, in duplicate, with the Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims, in duplicate, with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: April 5, 2018.

Personal Representative: Loretta F. Rowe c/o Law Office of Suzanne C. Quiñonez, P.A. Post Office Box 130 Middleburg, FL 32050-0130

Attorney for Estate: Law Office of Suzanne C. Quiñonez, P.A. Post office Box 130 Middleburg, FL 32050-0130 (904)282-6022-phone/(904)282-6076-fax pleadings@quionenezlaw.com (Service Of Pleadings/ Documents Only) correspondence@quionenezlaw.com (Correspondence) 4/5-4/12c

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OBITUARIES

Rev. Anderson, had prison ministry

Rev. Joseph Clyde Anderson, 77, of Glen St. Mary died on Monday, April 2, 2018. Born in Baxter to the late J.C. and Mary Anderson, he was a lifelong Baker County resident. He spent almost 40 years as an ordained minister and was a member of Bethel Holiness Church in Jacksonville. Rev. Anderson devoted over 25 years to prison ministry at Baker Correctional, including the re-entry facility, and Cross City Correctional in Dixie County. He was also a firefighter and heavy equipment operator, first with the Division of Forestry and then Rayonier Inc., where he was employed until his retirement. Rev. Anderson loved his family and took on the responsibility of organizing the Anderson family reunion for the last 35 years. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, gardening, and a good, country style meal.



Joseph Anderson

Rev. Anderson is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Anderson; sons Joseph C. (Tracey) Anderson Jr. of Sanderson and Jeremy L. Anderson Sr. of Glen St. Mary; daughter Melanie Anderson of Macclenny; brothers Rev. Johnnie (Ruby) Anderson and Michael (Sherrie) Anderson, all of Macclenny; sister Cleo (Sam) O'Steen of Mayo, Florida; nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Johnny Malachi Anderson, brother Edward Anderson and sisters Esther Anderson, Lavonne Brumfield and Genevieve Lucas.

The funeral service will be held 3 p.m. on Friday, April 6 at the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny with Revs. Jimmy Mathis Sr. and Johnnie Anderson officiating. Burial will follow at Taylor Cemetery. The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 at the church. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Garland Chandler, 69, of Glen dies

Garland Gene Chandler, 69, of Glen St. Mary died peacefully on April 2, 2018 with his wife of 50 years and daughter at his side. Gene was born near Florence, South Carolina, graduated from McClenaghan High School and attended the University of South Carolina. He was a Vietnam veteran who served 12 years in the U.S. Navy, settled in Jacksonville and retired from St. Luke's Hospital. He loved the Lord and was a member of First Christian Church of Macclenny. He enjoyed mission trips and Christian fellowship. Mostly, Gene adored and loved his grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents Walter and Frances Chandler.



Garland Chandler

Mr. Chandler is survived by his loving wife, Lola Hepburn Chandler and daughter Jennifer O'Steen, both of Glen St. Mary; grandchildren Nicole and Brook O'Steen; brother Tommy Collins of Eutawville, SC and sister Wendy Smith of Pamplico, SC.

A memorial service time will be announced at a later date. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

'Gabby' Crews, 74, dies on March 28

Harley Edwin "Gabby" Crews, 74, of Baldwin died on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at Orange Park Medical Center following an extended illness. Mr. Crews lived in Baldwin all of his life and was employed as a switchman/conductor with the CSX Transportation in Baldwin for 36 years until his retirement in 2002. He was a member of the United Transportation Union in Jacksonville and enjoyed hunting and working on his farm.



Harley Crews

Mr. Crews is survived by his wife of 44 years, Diane L. Crews; sons Harley E. Crews Jr. and Jonathan W. Crews, all of Baldwin.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Crews was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Baldwin Church of God with Pastor Johnny Wayne Anderson officiating. Interment was at Boone's Creek Cemetery, St. George, Georgia. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Marvin Davis, 63, dies April 1st

Marvin Aaron Davis, 63, of Glen St. Mary died on Sunday, April 1, 2018 at his residence following a brief illness. He was born in Jacksonville and lived in the Sanderson and Glen St. Mary area all of his life. He was an iron worker in the construction industry for over 30 years until ill health forced his retirement in 2013. He was a member of the local iron workers Union #597 of Jacksonville, and loved watching NASCAR events, the Florida Gators and enjoying his family and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Mencie Aaron and Vergalyne Henderson Davis.



Marvin Davis

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife Janet Davis; daughter Carley Davis, both of Glen St. Mary; sons Matthew (Sarah) Davis of Macclenny and Michael Davis of Palatka; brothers Rusty (Gail) Davis of Sanderson and Les (Maggie) Stone of Glen St. Mary; four grandchildren.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Davis was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4, in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with Rev. David Thomas, pastor of the Christian Fellowship Temple, officiating. Interment was at Cedar Creek Cemetery in Sanderson.

Mrs. Haverkamp, former resident

Beverly A. Haverkamp, 77, of Geronimo, OK died on March 31, 2018 at her residence under care of the Comanche County Memorial Hospital Hospice. Beverly was born on March 3, 1941 in Indianapolis, IN to Walter and Laverne Martin. She was preceded in death by her husband James Haverkamp, father Walter Martin and mother Laverne (Klusman) Martin, brother Richard and sister Marsha. Mrs. Haverkamp and her late husband lived in Macclenny from 2005-2013 and were active members of the First United Methodist Church.



Beverly Haverkamp

She is survived by her son Christopher (Jeannie) Haverkamp of Kenosha, WI; daughter Wendy (Robert) Jones of Geronimo; sister Barbara (Joe) Kedanis; brother Walter (Helen) Martin; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church in Geronimo on Sunday, April 8 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to the American Cancer society and the Wounded Warriors Foundation.

Funeral on Friday for Mrs. O'Berry

Peggy Sue O'Berry, 59, of Macclenny died on Thursday, March 29, 2018. A lifelong Baker County resident, Mrs. O'Berry was the youngest child of the late Edward and Thelma C. Dinkins. She enjoyed living a simple life — going fishing, riding in the woods and going to yard sales. Mrs. O'Berry loved flowers and gardening and spending time with her family. She was a sweet-natured woman who always put others before herself.



Peggy O'Berry

Mrs. O'Berry is survived by her husband of 33 years, Clarence "Doodle" O'Berry; sons Marcus (Renee) Brantley of Green Cove Springs, Tommy Crawford of Jacksonville and Jason (Susan) O'Berry of Medford, Oregon; daughter Tommie Sue (James) Swindell of Glen St. Mary; brother Marcus (Joyce) Dinkins of Macclenny; sisters Jean Barton, Joan Lyons, Alice Lauramore and Liz (Rich) Lauramore, all of Macclenny; 10 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Buster Spencer.

The funeral service will be held 11 a.m. on Friday, April 6 at Community Full Gospel Church, Glen St. Mary, where Mrs. O'Berry enjoyed attending. Pastor Tommy Richardson will officiate. Interment will follow at Macedonia Cemetery in Macclenny. The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 at the church. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

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Glen St. Mary
Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
Youth Director Kayse Fiano
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Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

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Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:00 pm
Pastor Bro. Timothy Alford

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church
CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL.
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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

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CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

CONTACT US

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

Dorothy Shepard, former resident

Dorothy Jean Shepard, 82, of Lake City died Sunday, April 1, 2018 at Lake City Medical Center following an extended illness. She was born in Cleveland, Pennsylvania and resided in Glen St. Mary for 30 years before moving to Lake City five years ago. She was an aircraft assembly mechanic with Aero Corp. in Lake City for over 25 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Macclenny and loved gardening and taking care of her kittens. She was preceded in death by her husband Frank Warren Shepard and her parents Howard Daniel and Kathryn Grace Goitshall Mensch.



Dorothy Shepard

Mrs. Shepard is survived sons Richard Hartman, Timothy (Karin) Hartman and Thomas Hartman, all of Lake City; step-sons Richard Shepard of Clearwater, Florida, Donald Shepard of Burkburnett, Texas and Steven Shepard of Oklahoma; step-daughter Debra Everard of Virginia; sisters Doris Smith of Catawissa, PA and Judy Mowery of Light Street, PA; one grandchild.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mrs. Shepard will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 6 in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorial April 21 for Mr. Wardwell

Leslie "Les" Warren Wardwell, 69, of St. George, Georgia died on April 1, 2018 at St. Vincent's Riverside Center for Caring in Jacksonville. He was born March 22, 1949 in Jacksonville to the late Leslie Edward Wardwell and Chastie Richards Wardwell. Les graduated from Mainland High School in Daytona, Florida in 1968, and moved to St. George from Port St. Lucie, Florida in 2011. He spent most of his life as the owner operator of Wardwell Heating and Air. When not working he enjoyed fishing and tinkering with antique tractors and engines. Les had a real passion for riding, building, restoring and drag racing cars and motorcycles. He was predeceased by his parents and son Leslie David Wardwell.



Leslie Wardwell

Mr. Wardwell is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Mary Lou Paulk Wardwell of St. George; sons Matthew Warren (Tracy) Wardwell of St. George and Joshua Jonathan (Adrienne) Wardwell of Port St. Lucie; sister Eva (Richard) Libby; grandchildren Christian, Katie, Joel, Matthew, Marty and Otis.

A memorial celebration will be held Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny with Pastor Ricky Dyal and R. Dale Ernberger officiating. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida <http://www.CommunityHospice.com> or 4266 Sunbeam Rd Jacksonville, FL 32257-2425

Spring fest is Saturday

ALICIA LAMBORN
HORTICULTURE AGENT
Baker County Extension Service

Load up your wagon for the tenth annual Spring Garden Festival and enjoy a fun-filled day of shopping from local plant vendors, plus kid's activities, gardening exhibits, door prizes and more.

Vendors include the Baker County Master Gardener Plant Sale, Baker County FFA, Baker County Firewise, Daylily Delights Nursery, Florida Gateway College, North Glen Farm, the Plant Ladies, Sands Nursery and the UF/IFAS Extension bookstore.

Visitors can also receive Florida-Friendly landscaping advice from UF/IFAS Extension master gardeners and stroll through the gardens located on the property. The festival will be held on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the arboretum and gardens located at the Agricultural Center in Macclenny.

The festival is sponsored by the Baker County Extension Office and is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (904) 259-3520.

FORMER CATS

Big week on diamond

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
sports@bakercountypress.com

Several former BCHS Wildcat baseball and softball stars had big weekends on the diamond to help their teams to important conference victories.

• Junior Landon Boyette's Thomas Night Hawks have won eight straight games, including a three-game sweep over Sun Conference rival South Carolina Beaufort. Boyette batted 1 for 3 with two runs, a walk, a hit by pitch and a stolen base on March 30 as Thomas (22-17, 5-10) pulled out a 13-11 victory. The Night Hawks won Saturday's doubleheader games 16-1 and 12-1, and Boyette went 2 for 4 with an RBI single in the first contest.

The Night Hawks swept a doubleheader over Trinity Baptist College on March 27. Boyette went 1 for 2 with a two-run triple in the first game, which the Night Hawks (19-17) won 18-0, but was held hitless as Thomas won the second game 7-0.

• Senior catcher Kylie Holton's Morehead State Lady Eagles (18-8, 2-2) swept Tennessee State on March 31 in an Ohio Valley Conference doubleheader. Holton batted 2 for 2 with a double and RBI single in her team's 6-0 win in the first game, and had a sacrifice hit in Morehead State's 2-1 victory in the late game.

• The No. 15 Middle Georgia State Knights swept Loyola in a three-game Southern States Athletic Conference series to improve to 28-11 overall and 8-4 in the conference. Senior first baseman went 2 for 3 with a double, RBI and a run scored as the Knights won the first game of a doubleheader 7-0 on March 30. Senior pitcher Jared Crews

threw five innings with three strikeouts, allowing just two hits and two walks. Flores also went 1 for 3 with a sacrifice fly as Middle Georgia State won the second game 5-1, and then had a pair of walks on March 31 in his team's 6-1 victory.

After dropping two straight home games to second-ranked Georgia Gwinnett College, the Knights bounced back with an extra-innings road win on March 27. Flores batted 1 for 3 with two walks, and he scored the go-ahead run in the 10th inning in his team's 5-4 victory.

• Junior pitcher Zach Rafuse's South Carolina Aiken Pacers lost two of three games to UNC Pembroke in a Peach Belt Conference series. Rafuse allowed four runs and eight hits and 5 2-3 innings in the no-decision, striking out two and walking four on March 29 in the 15th-ranked Pacers 6-5 loss to open the series. The Pacers (21-12, 12-6) ended the series with a 12-2 win on March 31 after losing the second game 8-3 the previous day.

• Freshman Madison Kennedy's No. 14 Florida State Lady Seminoles have won 17 straight games, including a three-game Atlantic Coast Conference sweep over Georgia Tech. FSU (29-6, 9-0) won 13-2 on March 30, 4-2 on March 31 and 11-3 on April 1.

• Sophomore pitcher Dylan Hall's FSCJ BlueWave (13-19, 3-9) split a pair of conference games on consecutive days. The team lost 6-3 at St. John's River State College one day after topping Lake-Sumter State 10-2.

Hall allowed three runs and four hits in three innings

on March 28, and his FSCJ BlueWave fell 4-2 at Lake Sumter State. He also had four strikeouts in the game. The BlueWave are set to visit Lake Sumter State March 30 and St. John's River State College on March 31.

• The Tallahassee Community College Lady Eagles have lost 12 straight games to fall to 10-28-1 overall after getting swept by Gulf Coast State College in a doubleheader on March 27. Sophomore Brandie Callaway went 1 for 3 with a double in the first game, which TCC lost 10-3. She had an RBI in her team's 13-6 loss in the second game. Sophomore Callie Paine allowed seven runs in four innings with two strikeouts.

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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

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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.



Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - ?, 4092 Wolfe Drive, Macclenny. Estate sale: furniture, refrigerator, small appliances, clothes, housewares, dishes, men's stuff too.

Friday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 104 Eloise Street, Macclenny. Yard and backyard sale: home decor, pictures, clothes, a little bit of everything.

Friday & Saturday, 7:00 am - 2:00 pm, 9758 South Glen Avenue, Glen St. Mary. Lots of stuff.

Saturday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, 5918 Lauren Lane, off of Lowder Street. Barn sale: Furniture, home decor, mid-cent, country chic, contemporary art, bird-houses, porch swing and stuff.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 5244 Blue Hole Road, Macclenny, 121 north to Georgia line, follow red and white signs. Two family sale: Lots of new stuff, too much to list. Rain or shine.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, 5979 Copper Drive. Moving sale: furniture, household goods, appliances, toys, electronics and more.

Saturday & Sunday, 8:30 am - ?, 121 south across from the Exxon. Four families, rain cancels to following weekend.

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Baldwin, FL. Vendors Wanted, 10 x 10 spot, \$20. Call 904-509-7616.

COMMERCIAL FR

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Cats respond to late runs by Santa Fe

Noblitt's walk-off hit lifts team to 11th win in 12 games

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

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Junior short stop Hunter Noblitt hit a walk-off single to left field on April 3, scoring Colby Kennedy and lifting the BCHS Wildcat baseball team to a dramatic 8-7 win over Santa Fe.

The Cats (11-4) responded after watching a two-run lead evaporate in the top of the seventh inning.

Jacob Deason hit a two-run single with two outs in the inning, giving the Raiders a 7-6 advantage and fully erasing the three-run lead Baker County built with a four-run fifth inning. John Graetz jump started Santa Fe's rally with an RBI single on a bunt down the first base line.

Still, despite the momentum shifting toward Santa Fe's favor, the Cats didn't give in, and ultimately won their 11th game in 12 outings.

"We knew we was down, but we come together as a team. We knew we could put two up to win, so that's what we did," said Noblitt, the team's No. 9 hitter. "We're a team. We stay together. We help each other out."

Outfielder Travis Neal, who batted 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs, scored the game-tying run on Kennedy's hard hit single up the middle. Neal initially reached base on a walk, and then stole third after reaching second on a passed ball.

Kennedy, who batted 2 for 4 with two RBIs, moved to second on a dropped fly ball by Santa Fe's left fielder during Jarron Hodges' at bat. Wade Johnson hit into a fielder's choice to advance Kennedy to third, setting up Noblitt's game-winning hit.

"When they give us opportunities we're going to take them," Noblitt said.

And the Cats made the most of the opportunity in the high-scoring fifth inning.

Neal, Preston Sutton and Johnson all hit RBI singles in the inning, and Casen Milton scored on an error by Santa Fe's third baseman during Kennedy's at bat. The Cats benefited from other free base runners in the frame, as Conner Moore reached safely after the third strike bounced past the catcher and Clayt Smith was hit by a pitch.

Smith and Neal both hit first-inning RBI doubles,

giving Baker County an early 2-1 lead after Dave Mitchum scored on a passed ball in the top half of the opening frame.

Santa Fe scattered single runs across the third, fifth and sixth innings before regaining the lead in the seventh, but the visitors missed several prime opportunities to add more runs.

The Raiders stranded 11 runners on base, including with the bases loaded in the sixth inning and two runners in scoring position in the second inning.

Starting pitcher Jordan Vanvactor got out of the second-inning jam after Santa Fe advanced runners to second and third with one out. He forced a ground out before ending the inning with a strikeout.

Kennedy allowed three runs on five hits in 3 2-3 innings. Joel Satterwhite earned the win with 1 1-3 innings and three strikeouts, including the one that ended the sixth inning.

Baker County was scheduled to return to the field on April 4 against Cook County.



Jordan Vanvactor

First pitch was set for 1 p.m. "We play together. We all have heart," Noblitt said. "We don't play for ourselves. We play for each other, our brothers, the person beside us."

Cats blow out Eagle's View

Pitchers Vanvactor, Hunter Wilson, Zach Lyons and Mike Davis combined to throw a two-hit shutout on March 27 and the Cats blew out host Eagle's View 13-0 to rebound from their District 3-5A loss at Suwannee the previous Friday.

The pitchers also combined for nine strikeouts and were led by Wilson's four in two innings pitched. Vanvactor struck out the side in the first inning en route to his fourth win in as many starts up to that point.

Baker County scored six runs in the third inning after scoring three in each of the



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Mason Platto races to home plate in Baker County's 8-7 win over Santa Fe.



Clayt Smith steps off first base after the force out.

first two innings to quickly pull away. The Cats took advantage of Eagle's View pitching miscues in the third inning, scoring on three walks, a hit batter and a wild pitch in addition to Wilson's RBI single.

Neal hit a pair of run-scoring singles, including a two-run hit in the first inning and an RBI line drive to center field in the second. Milton also had two hits with a second-inning RBI single.

Moore drove in a pair of

runs, including the first one on an error. The error by Eagle's View's third baseman plated Hunter Noblitt for the first of three runs he scored.

Kennedy led off the third inning with a double and Sutton led off the fifth inning with a triple to left field. Ridge Stewart scored Sutton one batter later with a ground out to the short stop.

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Coach John Staples and catcher Wade Johnson



Colby Kennedy



Lucas Kish in rehearsal.

Musical benefits Hodges

The BCHS drama department and Baker County Community Theatre wrap up their season with a bang with *Broadway in Baker: Greatest Hits*. This year's edition is a special one, a benefit to aid the family of Wildcat Warrior Colby Hodges, who passed away last month.

The production features songs from previous ones with hits like *Hound Dog*, *Rolling in the Deep*, *Valerie*, *Your Cheatin' Heart*, *Hello Darlin'*, *That's Life*, *Superstition*, *Moves Like Jagger* and *If I Could Turn Back Time*.

Broadway in Baker: Greatest Hits runs three nights, April 12 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. and April 15 at 2 p.m. Call 259-6286 for reservations in the first three rows.

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SPORTS

Ladies heat up at the plate

JON SHUMAKE
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Following the BCHS Lady Wildcat softball team's three-hit shutout home loss to Hilliard on March 27, first-year head coach Kylee Canaday challenged her players to step up at the plate.

What she got in return was the team's best offensive output in weeks.

Allie Crummev batted 2 for 2 with an RBI, Taylor Dyal went 2 for 4 with a lead-off double, and the Lady Cats (11-5) piled up 10 hits on March 29 in their 8-1 home win over Yulee. Both the hit and run totals were the team's best since it stacked up 12 hits and nine runs in its District 3-5A win over Bolles on March 15.

"We played great at the plate, made the adjustments we needed to make," coach Canaday said after the win. "... All the way from the starting lineup to the kids off the bench we just played as a team and they came in clutch tonight."

Catlin Harvin had two RBIs in the game, including one in Baker County's two-run first inning and another in the team's five-run third frame. Kiki Carter, Kat Rhoden, Cassidi Beaver and Marissa Rhoden all drove in runs in the fifth inning, which turned the close game into the lopsided affair.

Crummev's RBI single to center field extended Baker County's lead to 8-0.

Liz McGovern pitched four shutout innings and struck out the lead-off batter in every inning she appeared. She allowed just one



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photo by Jud Johnson
Kat Rhoden makes the catch, avoiding a collision with Taylor Crews (left) and Kiki Carter in the infield.



Marissa Rhoden beats the throw to first base.

week to kick off spring break. Baker County was scheduled to play Apopka on April 3 after playing at Montverde the previous night.



Emily Lee

JV Lady Cats end season with win

Taylor Crews went 3 for 3 with a double and two RBIs, Harlee Williams also batted 3 for 3 with a double, and the BCHS JV Lady Wildcat softball team ended its season with a 6-1 win over Yulee on March 30.

Reagan Griffis drove in Williams on an error for the go-ahead run in the second inning of the game, which ended during the bottom of the fifth inning due to the 90-minute time limit.

The JV Lady Cats (5-3) scored four runs in the final inning before the game was stopped. Alyssa Taylor went 2 for 2 with a fifth-inning RBI single. Crews, Karli Johnson and Cassie Turner also plated runs in the frame.

Pitcher Emily Lee allowed eight hits and a walk with one strikeout in the team's finale.

The Lady Cats traveled to central Florida earlier this

Bobcat football tryouts April 23

JON SHUMAKE

The BCMS Bobcat football team will hold tryouts for current sixth and seventh graders from April 23 to May 18.

The tryouts, which are scheduled to run from 2 to 5 p.m., are open to both students enrolled in the middle school and those who are home schooled.

Students must complete the FSAS physical form available at the school's front office to be eligible for tryouts. Dopson Family Medical Center on Third Street will offer free physicals on April 18 beginning at 3 p.m.

The B-Cats will also play in a jamboree game at Orange Park Junior High School on May 15. The program's game against Lake Asbury is scheduled to begin at 5:40 p.m.

The jamboree will also give Baker County its first taste of action in the eight-team Northeast Florida Athletic Conference, in which it will compete in the fall. Orange Park, Oakleaf, Lakeside, Wilkinson, Lake Asbury, Green Cove Springs and Bradford make up the remainder of the conference.

Simon eyes history as Cats aim for state title

JON SHUMAKE
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Senior weightlifter Dalton Simon has had an illustrious career for the BCHS Wildcats.

The three-time state qualifier, who has rewritten the school's record board, boasts two District 6-1A and Region 3-1A individual and team championships, and he won the 2017 state title in the 154-pound class.

But there is still one accolade missing: A team state championship as an active lifter.

He will have a chance to add the elusive trophy on April 6 at the Class 1A Florida High School Boys Weightlifting State Championships. Baker County is competing

for its seventh state championship since 2008 and the program has finished either as champion or runner-up for 10 straight seasons.

"That's the only thing I haven't been a part of is to lift and win a team state championship," said Simon, who also claimed sixth in the state in the 139 classes as a freshman, finishing just 10 points behind the winning total.

"... I think this year we should have it. If we don't have it I think it would be a shame. I think we got a great shot. We have quite a few that's going to score, and we have a few that should score pretty high."

Simon is one of 12 Wildcat weightlifters who qualified for the state meet in Panama City Beach. Baker



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com Photo by Jon Shumake
Dalton Simon lifts the clean and jerk during the Region 3-1A meet.

County has lifters in nine of the 10 weight classes, including two divisions — the 169 and heavyweight — with a pair of competitors ranked in the top six.

Simon in the 169 and Marcus Dialo in the 139 enter the competition as the top lifters in their weight classes, leading a group of nine Cats who are ranked in scoring position.

"The number of lifters that qualify with good totals is where you begin talking about team championships," head coach Scott McDonald said. "This is another one of those really good teams. I think we have a great shot at winning a team state championship."

A state title would be the program's second one in three seasons. The Cats earned a share of the title in 2016 in a 15-point tie with Vernon, but Simon missed the season while recovering from a torn rotator cuff.

"I was tremendously happy for the team, but I was real down on myself," the 19-year-old Glen St. Mary resident said about the 2016 title. "I didn't feel like I put in any effort for that season or for the team itself, so that was really a hard one for me."

He was unable to lift for several months following the shoulder injury. He went to physical therapy for eight weeks in lieu of undergoing

surgery, which he said would have jeopardized his future in competitive weightlifting.

But sitting out gave him an opportunity to observe lifters he looked up to. He watched as Jarvis Desue captured an individual state championship that year.

Simon has since broken Desue's school records, but his former teammate's performance still serves as motivation.

"Watching him do that and looking at him as he's the best on the team that year makes me realize I am where he was, and it's helped me to keep going really," Simon explained.

His strength quickly came back to him once he returned to training the summer after his injury, and he soon became on the state's best lifters. He won the state championship in 2017 by 30 pounds, which tied the meet's third-largest margin of victory.

Despite Simon's individual title, the Cats finished one point shy of repeating as state champions. Baker County settled for runner-up with 21 points, finishing only behind regional rival Madison County's 22 points.

"That was a really bitter moment to see one point slip away from us," he said.

Now, as a senior, he's hoping everything falls in line for himself and the team.

"It would feel like I've ac-

tually came and done and accomplished what I'm working for this whole four years," said Simon, who is competing to join Lucious Lee and Reuben Jackson as Baker County's two-time state champions. "That would make it feel right."

But he's not only eying Baker County history; he also has his sights set on state history.

He wants to break the 169 class' state record total of 690 pounds. He enters the meet with the 655-pound total he posted as the Region 3-1A meet, which was 10 pounds lower than his District 6-1A championship total.

He didn't perform his final clean and jerk at the regional meet, resulting in the lower total, but said he feels like he still has room to improve upon his district mark.

"Pulling them reps and looking back at footage and talking with the coaches telling me how easy they looked, how much it looked I had in the tank left, it really inspires me," Simon said. "I feel like I'm able to do the state record, what it takes."

He said he has to hit all three bench press attempts and his first clean and jerk lift to have a shot at the state record. Doing so would give him his final two clean and jerk lifts to break the record.

His best non-competition bench press (375 pounds) and clean and jerk (305 pounds) equal the state record total. But he has to put all the lifts together on the sport's biggest stage to etch his name in history.

"I want to set history while doing this. I want to be in the record book," Simon said. "That's why I've done what I can to set the records for the school and that's really why my greatest goal is to set a state record. That way I have records all around. And to be a two-time would be amazing."

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The BCMS Lady Bobcats pose for a photo following their final win of the season. Front row (l-r): Emma Richardson, Brooklyn Davis, Taylor Mann, Emily Myers, Emaleigh Raulerson, Kalin Davis, Kyleigh Brown and Emilee McCabe. Back row: Head coach Angela Lauramore, Brooklyn Kennedy, Emily Griffin, Kara Davis, Kaylee Rogers, Gracie Norman, Madison Lagle, Chloe Baldwin, Haley Marker, Krista Crews and coach Gary Pelham.

Lady Bobcats dominate in perfect season

JON SHUMAKE
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Thirteen games. Thirteen wins. Perfect season.

The BCMS Lady Bobcat softball team capped off its undefeated season — its first during head coach Angela Lauramore's 11-year tenure — on March 29 with a 9-1 home win over Lake City. The same formula that carried the Lady B-Cats to victory throughout the year — big hits and dominant pitching — lifted the ladies to their 10th win of the season by at least five runs.

The Lady B-Cats scored an average of 10.31 runs per game during the season, and won by

an average margin of 9.15 runs.

Madison Lagle threw 13 strikeouts in the complete game three-hitter. She struck out the side in the first inning and retired the first seven batters she faced. After Lake City got runners on with two singles and an error in the third inning, Lagle retired 14 of the final 15 batters.

Lagle started all 13 games and shut down Baker County's opposition. She threw 130 strikeouts and posted a .541 ERA while allowing just five earned runs, 10 walks and 35 hits.

The Lady B-Cats pulled away with a five-run fourth inning after building a 3-1 advantage through the opening three frames. Lagle led off the inning with a home run center field. Emily Myers hit a one-run double and

Emilee McCabe hit a two-run double on back-to-back at bats in the frame.

Lagle's solo homer tied Emily Griffin with two home runs to lead the team. Griffin also led the Lady B-Cats in batting average (.605), hits (26), doubles (10) and RBIs (18), and she ended the season on a 10-game hitting streak.

Griffin doubled twice in the season finale, and scored the go-ahead run on Brooklyn Kennedy's first-inning single. Kaylee Rodgers, who went 3 for 4, doubled to drive in Kennedy later in the inning, accounting for one of Rodgers' two RBIs.

Emily Myers and Chloe Baldwin also doubled as half of Baker County's 14 hits went for extra bases.

Kennedy went 3 for 4 with two doubles

and four RBIs on March 27, and led the Lady B-Cats to an 8-3 win over visiting Suwannee in their penultimate contest. Her first-inning double to center field cut Suwannee's lead to 2-1, and Rodgers' two-run single to the same area gave Baker County the lead for good later in the same frame.

Rodgers went 2 for 3 with three RBIs.

Taylor Mann also went 2 for 3 with a double, an RBI and three runs scored, including the team's first run of the game. Griffin batted 2 for 4 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Lagle and Gracie Norman combined to throw the three-hitter. Lagle had 10 strikeouts in five innings of two-hit ball, and Norman had two strikeouts with one hit allowed in two innings.



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Jon Shumake Easton Stevens awaits the ball on a pickoff attempt in Baker County's season-ending win over Lake City.

Season-ending win streak

JON SHUMAKE
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The BCMS Bobcat baseball team ended its first season under head coach Kyle Davis on a six-game winning streak.

Baker County (10-5) scored five runs in the fourth inning on March 29, erasing a brief one-run deficit to finish the season with a 9-5 home win over Lake City.

Brady Chauncey hit the go-ahead two-out double to left field, giving the B-Cats a 4-3 fourth-inning lead after the Falcons scored three runs to pull ahead in the third frame. Jamil Jones, who went 2 for 4, padded the advantage with a two-RBI triple to center field one batter later, and capped off the game-changing inning by scoring on a wild pitch.

Jacob Miller — who threw nine strikeouts in 4 1-3 innings, allowing three hits and five runs — also hit an RBI double in the fifth inning to add cushion. Kale Gibson scored on a passed ball in the sixth inning, regaining Baker County's four-run lead after Lake City scored two runs in the top half of the frame.

The Falcons stranded eight runners on base during the game, including five who were left in scoring position. Lake City stranded runners at the corners following a seventh-inning two-out rally, and Dakota Dicks sealed Baker County's season-ending winning streak with a strikeout.

The B-Cats took a 2-0 second-inning lead as Easton Stevens scored on a wild pitch and Jase Knabb plated Miller on a sacrifice hit. The Falcons took their only lead of the game in the third inning, scoring two runs on errors and the final on a double to left field.

Stevens batted 2 for 3 with three runs.

Baker County scored seven runs in the fourth inning and then held off a late Suwannee surge on March 27, and held on to win 7-6 in the six-inning home game. The victory marked the team's second straight one run win, and its third in its previous five games.



Brady Chauncey fires the pitch against Lake City.

Suwannee scored four runs during the two-out sixth inning rally with a two-run single, RBI base hit and a wild pitch. The visitors had runners at second and third with a chance to take the lead, but pitcher Ethan Wilford forced a fly out to left fielder Brody Griffis to end the game.

Ty Walker's RBI single and Conner Brasart's RBI ground out gave the team the lead for good in the fourth inning after falling behind 1-0 in the top of the frame. The team extended the lead with Knabb's RBI single and Tyce Moore's two-run base hit, and Chauncey, Jones and Wilford drew three straight bases-loaded walks.

Third baseman Moore and Wilford, who was playing first base, also turned a 5-3 double play for the first two outs of the fifth inning.

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