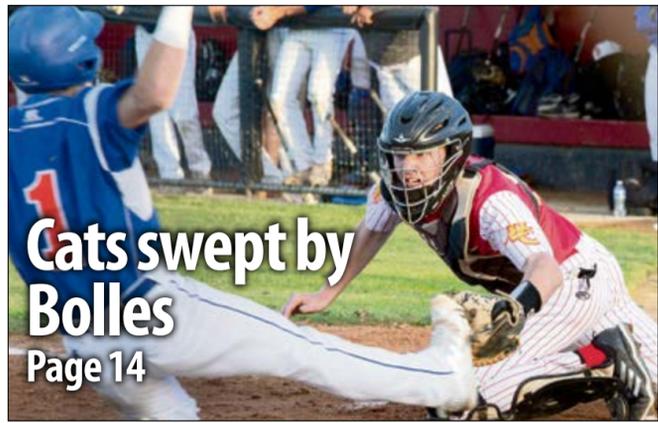




Wildcat Warrior 5K Page 16



Cats swept by Bolles Page 14

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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88TH YEAR | VOLUME 52

APRIL 19, 2018

AT A
GLANCE

► **THINGS TO DO**

APRIL 19

Elder abuse training

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Baker County Sheriff's Office
1 Sheriff's Office Dr.
Macclenny

Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 with training from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. There is no cost for the training. It is offered through a grant from the Community Foundation Giving Forward Endowment Fund. To register call Eileen Rodden (904) 722-3000, Ext. 213, or via email at erodden@womenscenterofjax.org. The public is welcome to attend.

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.

MORE ON PAGE 3

► **SPORTS**



Belford signs to EWC
See page 14

Go vote ...

Who should pay for more corrections deputies requested at the jail?

49% BCDC

30% Both

11% County

11% Undecided

bakercountypress.com

Fatal single vehicle accident

Page 2



6 89076 48819 8

One dies in Glen shootout

Feud likely result of Facebook clash

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Three males were shot, one of them fatally, and five are facing home invasion charges following a shootout at an address in Glen St. Mary early Sunday morning.

Police got a report of shots fired about 4 a.m. April 15 at 9368 CR 125 S. just north of the interstate and responding officers saw a vehicle speeding away. Inside the 2015 Chevy passenger car were three people with gunshot wounds, who were sent to Shands Jacksonville with serious injuries, as well as several others.

One of them, Corey Lauramore, 18, later died, according to the Baker County Sheriff's Office (BCSO).

His brother, William Lauramore, 24, was treated

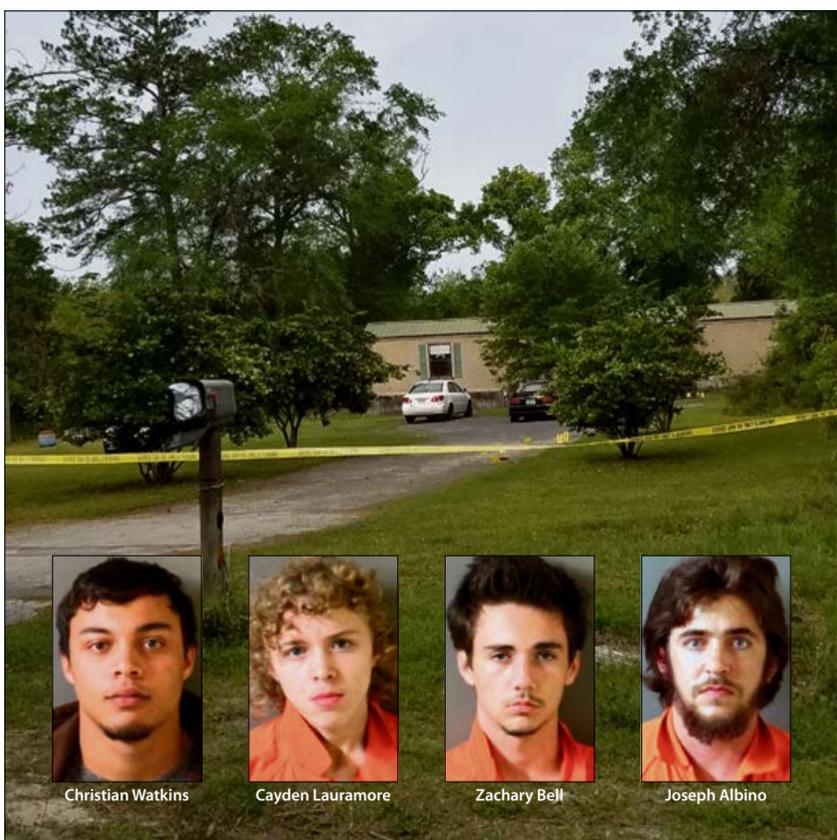
at Shands Jacksonville and released into police custody in Duval County. He was transferred to Baker County Monday night.

A 16-year-old male who was shot, and whose name is being withheld by BCSO, remained in the hospital Tuesday in serious but stable condition, according to Major Randy Crews.

The three males were among seven who reportedly broke into the mobile home on CR 125 S. In addition to William Lauramore, four more have been arrested for home invasion, though BCSO says additional charges could come later. The other suspects are Zachary Bell, 20, Joseph Albino, 24, Christian Watkins, 19, and Cayden Lauramore, 15.

Police say not all of the suspects were armed and only one firearm was recovered.

See page 2



Photos courtesy of Baker County Sheriff's Office and Jessica Prevatt
Four of the five home invasion suspects in custody after Sunday's fatal shooting at this CR 125 trailer.



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com
Sgt. Patrick McGauley and K9 deputy Blitz during Saturday's demonstration. Photos by Joel Addington

Great turnout at Dog Days

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Eden Hill became the owner of a 6-year-old pit bull named Blizzard Saturday after the dog spent months with county animal control shelter.

Blizzard, who one animal control volunteer called Blaze because he was so energetic, was among eight dogs and one cat adopted from the shelter and a local cat rescue, Rollie's Angels,



Zane Cloutier with Luna during the best dressed dog contest.

during the second annual Dog Days of Baker festival and fundraiser last Saturday.

"He is such a good dog and so full of personality," said Ms. Hill of Blizzard early this week. "My kids love him and he's already protective over them."

She said her children were looking at puppies up for adoption, but she told them she didn't have time to train and take care of a puppy.

"Then the nice lady

See page 2

Macclenny Products is sold KD Wall collapses



The commercial property on South Sixth Street recently sold for some \$1.6 million.

JIM MCGAULEY
editor@bakercountypress.com

The county's prospects for bringing new jobs into the area got a boost recently with the sale of the former Macclenny Products building and acreage, and a bust with the news that an Ireland-based concern has backed out of its plan to purchase the former Hanson Products site near Sanderson.

Earlier this month, the long-vacant industrial property in south Macclenny sold to 1481 South 6th St. LLC, a foreign limited liability concern for an indicated price of \$1.6-million. It will reportedly become a regional hub for distributing bathroom vanities and patio furniture.

Bryan Bartlett, senior vice-president of Newmark Phoenix Realty Group in Jacksonville that brokered the transaction, said the purchaser is a group of buyers based in northern California who market Starsong and Vanity Art products.

See page 3

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Dog Days: Nine total pets adopted

From page 1

told me a little about Blizzard and how he was already trained, so we went to meet him and fell instantly in love! My son wouldn't let him out of his sight," she recalled.

The event also raised \$426 to benefit county animal control.

"We are so pleased that Blizzard finally got adopted after being in Animal Control for five months!" wrote county manager Kenie Downing by email early this week. "Blizzard is such a sweet pit bull mix that animal control tried several times to find him a new home at our Petsmart adoptions but were unsuccessful."

The event, the brainchild of Ms. Downing and organized this year by county commissioner secretary Sara Little, was downsized this year but attendance grew from 154 in 2017 to 240 this year.

"I think the event was better than last year. There were so many children laughing and having a fantastic time, which was one of the primary missions of the festival: To have a great family event and find some well deserving dogs new homes," said Ms. Downing.

Violet Cloutier, whose bulldog mix Luna, 2, com-



Zoltar shakes as Avery Bryan sprays him with water.

peted in the talent show competition during the festival, agreed.

"It's family-friendly. It's fun for everybody and not too much money," she said prior to the contest in which her children — Kimmie and Zane — won first and second place, respectively, with a chihuahua named Minnie and Luna.

Ms. Cloutier said the dogs were trained for about two weeks before the talent show to sit, leap through a hula hoop or jump onto a stool.

Third place in the competition was Alexis Norman and her dalmatian Vladamir, who did similar tricks.

"The event was fun," added Ms. Hill, who'd never been to an adoption event previously. "I doubt I'll go to another anytime soon or I'll probably end up with another dog."

Beyond adoptions and contests, Dog Days of Baker also included face painting, kids games, a food truck, pet



Alexis Norman and Vladamir.



Kimmie Cloutier with Minnie.



Sparky leaps in the talent show competition.



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Joel Addington
Bryleigh Godwin, 3, of Sanderson after getting her face painted.

photo booths, a dog washing station, music, K9 officer demonstration by the sheriff's office and several community vendors.

Ms. Downing said while she was pleased with the turnout this year she hopes to have more activities for dogs and their owners for the third annual event in 2019.

She also wants to showcase the adoptable dogs more.

"Get the adoptable dogs out of their cages and put them in the spotlight on the stage so everyone at the festival can see them and learn about them," she said. "Hopefully the spotlight will get [more] animals adopted."



Jaxon Walker, 12, of Macclenny pets one of the adoptable dogs through its cage.

Shootout: 'Small time' feud

From page 1

ered from the 2015 Chevy. Multiple guns were recovered from the residence, said Maj. Crews.

"They were armed with firearms, wearing masks and other clothing to hide their identity," said BCSO's statement on the shooting released Monday. "They went with the intent to confront the occupants of the residence in reference to the ongoing feud."

Inside the home were Justin Raulerson, 18, and three friends, David Johnson, 21, David Boldry, 22, and Matthew Cornish, 19, all awakened by the armed invaders.

Mr. Raulerson said the group kicked down the door yelling they were the Baker County Sheriff's Office and held Mr. Boldry and Mr. Cornish at gunpoint on living room couches. He said he came from a bedroom to find out what was happening, believing the armed intruders were indeed police.

Mr. Raulerson said a single shot was fired at his feet and then more shots, which he described as a "hail of bullets," caused him to retreat, arm himself with an AR-15 and return fire in self-defense.

"I had to protect me and my family," said the Sanderson native who turned 19 years old April 17.

He said he heard the suspects were taking Xanax and drinking that night and that they knew he had access to

the assault-style rifle at his home. He said he doesn't believe they would have attacked his residence if they were sober.

"I didn't want to kill those kids ...," said Mr. Raulerson. "... I had to get them out of my house."

The two groups of young men know each other and had conflicts that Mr. Raulerson described as "small time." He said he expected the ongoing dispute would lead to a fist fight, but nothing involving firearms.

However, it was five days before the shooting that a 23-year-old Glen St. Mary woman in Mr. Raulerson's company was allegedly struck by an 18-year-old male who drove with Corey Lauramore and two others, ages 16 and 17, in a black Camaro outside a lounge on South Sixth Street where the incident took place, according to an offense report by Deputy Mitchell Wight [see related story page 8].

The juveniles' names were redacted, but Major Randy Crews of BCSO confirmed the 16-year-old was the same young man shot last weekend.

The suspect in the gas station incident, Da'Ron Thomas of Sanderson, was arrested for battery against the victim, Christina Hauge, that evening as well as allegedly brandishing a silver handgun while walking towards her and Mr. Raulerson.

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden said Tuesday that the dis-

pute at Bootsies lounge and earlier at a gas station may have escalated online and led to the shooting last weekend.

"The sad thing is it's probably going to be [caused] by the altercation a week ago when [Mr. Thomas] got arrested and it's still brewing and going on and they're on Facebook arguing with one another," said the sheriff.

A similar circumstance — an argument that festered online before turning into gunfire off line — may have occurred in a drive-by shooting in March in southwest Macclenny in which a 20-year-old was shot but survived.

"This is two incidents that Facebook has caused multiple shootings and injuries to people and now it's caused death. Facebook is the backbone of this here — kids getting on Facebook and arguing until it causes these kinds of things," said Sheriff Rhoden.

Police don't believe the shooting was the result of a drug deal or robbery gone bad.

"Nothing indicates there was a significant amount of drugs there that they were going to do a robbery," said Maj. Crews, noting also that he was still waiting on full list of all evidence collected by the FDLE at the shooting scene.

He said had a large cache of drugs or money been confiscated as evidence, the state agency would've informed BCSO verbally.

National Guardsman dies in vehicle crash

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

A Macclenny man was killed Sunday morning when he lost control of his 1996 Ford Mustang on CR 229 heading north towards the interstate and crashed into a tree.

Joseph Crews, 50, was reportedly a National Guardsman on his way to base about 6:45 a.m., according to WJXT/News4Jax, when the accident occurred.

For an unknown reason, said the Florida Highway Patrol in a press release later that day, Mr. Crews exited the northbound lane onto the shoulder, crossed the eastbound I-10 on-ramp down a small embankment and into the tree line where the car's left front hit a large pine tree.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

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The Baker County Press Weather

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High: 83 Low: 56

Friday
Sunny
High: 75 Low: 55

Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 76 Low: 59

Sunday
Few Showers
High: 78 Low: 61

Monday
Few Showers
High: 77 Low: 60

Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 72 Low: 55

Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 70 Low: 57

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 4/10	63	55	81/53	1.14"
Wed, 4/11	73	50	81/53	0.00"
Thu, 4/12	77	43	81/53	0.00"
Fri, 4/13	81	52	81/53	0.00"
Sat, 4/14	86	59	81/53	0.00"
Sun, 4/15	84	57	81/53	0.98"
Mon, 4/16	68	48	82/53	0.00"

Precipitation 2.12"
Normal precipitation 0.76"
Departure from normal +1.36"
Average temperature 64.0°
Average normal temperature 67.1°
Departure from normal -3.1°

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	6:57 a.m.	7:58 p.m.
Friday	6:55 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
Saturday	6:54 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
Sunday	6:53 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday	6:52 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
Tuesday	6:51 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
Wednesday	6:50 a.m.	8:02 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	6.88 ft.	+0.83 ft.
Macclenny	6.19 ft.	+0.27 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	3:23-5:23	3:52-5:52
Fri	4:22-6:22	4:51-6:51
Sat	5:21-7:21	5:50-7:50
Sun	6:20-8:20	6:48-8:48
Mon	7:17-9:17	7:44-9:44
Tue	8:11-10:11	8:38-10:38
Wed	9:04-11:04	9:29-11:29

Weather History

April 19, 1988 - Severe thunderstorms over the southeastern United States spawned a strong tornado which destroyed 17 homes and severely damaged 30 houses near Madison, Fla., killing four people and injuring 18 others.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

▶ THINGS TO DO

From page 1
Woman's Club luncheon

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Woman's Club
144 South Fifth St.
Macclenny

GFWC Woman's Club of Macclenny invites you to the 37th Annual Prayer Luncheon at the Woman's Club located at 144 South 5th Street in Macclenny on Thursday April 19, 2018 at 11:30 AM. RSVP appreciated by April 13th at (904) 259-9690 to Patty Harvey.

APRIL 20
Illusionists at BCHS

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Baker County High School auditorium
1 Wildcat Dr.
Glen St. Mary, FL

Two illusionists featured on America's Got Talent will visit BCHS April 20 at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for adults, door tickets are \$10 and \$13, respectively. \$2 off advance tickets until April 13. Visit magicshowtix.com to order tickets, which can also be done at BCHS. Proceeds to benefit the school.

APRIL 21
5th Annual Possum in the Park Charity Music Festival

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Heritage Park Village
Lowder St.
Macclenny, FL

The fifth annual Possum in the Park Charity Music Festival has been scheduled for April 21. The event is wholesome family fun with great food and lots of music. It will be held at Heritage Park in Macclenny, FL. For information on being a part of this great event contact Greg or Sarah Sheppard at crookedroosterbrews@gmail.com

Earth Day 'Critter Crawl' in Okefenokee NWR

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is hosting the Okefenokee Critter Crawl for visitors to come out and get some exercise and celebrate Earth Day. The Okefenokee Critter Crawl is a 5K or 1-Mile Fun Run organized by the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Okefenokee Wildlife League. The refuge would like to invite runners and walkers alike to come out and join refuge staff and volunteers. The Okefenokee NWR will be offering this event at the Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) near Folkston.

APRIL 24
BCHS Wildcat baseball vs Eagle's View

6:30 p.m.
Baker County High School
1 Wildcat Dr., Glen St. Mary
The Cats host Eagle's View in their final regular-season home game. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

LAND PLANNING AGENCY

Animal grooming site granted approval

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Bed, Bath & Barks Inc., a familiar fixture on U.S. 90 in Glen St. Mary for years, will close and relocate later this year in a new and larger building on the owner's 8-acre agriculturally zoned residence on nearby Pine Top Road.

Jeremy and Lydia Pons, owners of the kennel and pet grooming facility that has won praise for helping county animal control find adoptive homes for neglected dogs and cats, received a special zoning exception approval for the move from the county's Land Planning Agency (LPA) on April 12.

Mrs. Pons, who runs the kennel with the help of three employees, told the panel that "everybody I have talked to about it are very excited." Of course, she added, "they're all customers."

Her comments came during a public hearing that evening during which no objections were voiced to the special exception from anyone in the audience or on the LPA board.

About the only question came from board member Greg Sheppard who wanted to know if the owners expected the business to grow after the move.

"I do expect there to be some growth of the business,

but not substantially," said Mrs. Pons, adding that one of her main goals was to have a new facility that will be "clean and more desirable."

Chris Milton, the county's community development director, recommended approval of the couple's application, noting that letters had been sent to surrounding neighbors and a notice was placed in *The Baker County Press* and "no public opposition (was received) to the request."

Mrs. Pons said this week that she and her husband opened Bed, Bath & Barks in October, 2010 and hoped to be in their new building next to their home in about six months to celebrate the start of their ninth year in business.

A new metal building containing 1500 square feet of space designed specifically for a kennel, surrounded by a full acre outdoors, will replace the present 1200 square foot office building with limited space inside as well as outside.

"I'm looking for the opportunity to have a facility that better accommodates my business and gives dogs more space to run and play," Mrs. Pons said Tuesday. "It'll also be an opportunity for a little growth as well."

Because a kennel is "a very wet business" with all the animals receiving baths

and owners expecting them to be dry when they pick them up, she said, her existing building "just doesn't have the proper ventilation for it."

Her new building will be more appropriately ventilated to allow shorter drying times for the animals, which leaves more time for hanging out with their playmates.

"It'll be an indoor/outdoor facility," she said. "They'll have plenty of opportunity for socialization outside the kennels."

Though as the mother of three expecting "a fourth child on the way," she has lots of other responsibilities besides caring for other peoples' pets. Nonetheless, throughout her years in the pet grooming and boarding business, Mrs. Pons said, she has always been willing to help provide care or a foster home for abused or neglected animals, often volunteering her services to the county's animal control shelter.

As testimony to Mrs. Pons' compassion for animals, Georgia Monfort, director of county animal control, posted the following on the Bed, Bath & Barks website two months ago:

"This business has been awesome in helping some lucky animals passing through Baker County Animal Control. Lydia and her staff have donated their

time and experience to giving comfort to some horribly neglected dogs and making them look like dogs again. We are so grateful for her empathy for the homeless animals of Baker."

Though most of her clients are dogs and cats, Mrs. Pons said she has cared for rabbits, ferrets, goats, guinea pigs and pot belly pigs.

The only other case before the LPA board last week resulted in denial of an appeal from Lee & Baker Properties Inc. seeking to overturn a determination by Mr. Milton that a proposed subdivision on Wolfe Drive would not conform to county codes requiring paved roads and connection to nearby City of Macclenny water and sewer lines.

Jack Baker Jr., president of the development company, said plans for the 15-acre site off South Fifth Street called for wells and septic tanks for the seven 1.6-acre-plus lots and some type of "hard surface" road, possibly crushed rock or asphalt millings, but not a standard paved asphalt road four inches thick.

Since the LPA board split 2-2 on the appeal in the absence of board chair Sharon Padgett and member Gabe Powers, the developer's only recourse is to take the matter up with the county commis-

sion. "I move that we go with staff's decision to deny," said board member Glen Patten following a hearing that evening. Katherine Heinz supported Mr. Patten's motion but Greg Sheppard and Allen Cross, who as vice chair presided over the meeting, voted against it, placing the ultimate decision in the hands of county commissioners.

All board members were willing to accept the company's proposal to install wells and septic systems rather than be forced to hook up to the city's centralized water-sewer system, but they were divided on the paved road issue: Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Cross in favor of granting the appeal and Mr. Patten and Mrs. Heinz opposed.

County building and zoning codes require new subdivisions to have paved roads with direct access to paved county roads and those where city utilities are available to hook into those lines, whether the properties are annexed into the city or remain in the unincorporated county.

LPA members questioned whether the mandatory utility connection was reasonable or even enforceable, but county attorney Rich Komando was also not present for the meeting.

Sale: For distribution site ...

From page 1

He said the owners are in the process of obtaining bids from contractors on what he says will be major site improvements to the facility that was originally constructed as a General Electric panel board plant in the 1980s, then converted into a factory where imported clothing was assembled for distribution to major retailers.

It had been on the market for some time at \$2.4-million.

There was no immediate word on how many jobs will be created here or salary ranges, nor the timetable for opening the facility.

Mr. Bartlett disputed earlier reports that the investors are Chinese, countering that they are American citizens of Chinese descent. He also claimed the products distributed from the local facility will be American made though the website of Starsong indicates its luxury line of products are made in China.

On another front, it appears that KD Wall Systems will not be locating on the 15-acre former Hanson roof tile factory off Arnold Rhoden Road. The property went back on the market recently for just shy of \$5 million.

Darryl Register, executive director of both the Chamber of Commerce and

Baker County Development Commission, said this week new avenues of financing hoped for by Kevin Donohoe earlier this year had not materialized and owner Arnold Rhoden Rd. Properties LLC has the 133,600 square foot buildings and property listed with Collier International.

Mr. Donohoe was quoted in February as confident that alternate investors could be located to start up the operation turning out prefabricated walls on the property vacated by Hanson in 2009.

He could not be reached for comment this week.

Last fall, the Baker County Commission agreed to property tax breaks over a 10-year period as an incentive to bring the plant here with its estimated 60 jobs.

In another Chamber-related development, reconstruction began recently on the downtown office on U.S. 90 heavily damaged by an electrical fire on October 23.

Mr. Register said contracts were hired with three local firms, Mark Thomas Construction, County Line Electric and Southern Air and Refrigeration, though he declined to reveal the amounts being spent to rebuild the offices. He expects the project to be complete in about three months.

The insurance settlement reached so far is in the

neighborhood of \$125,000, according to local agent Richard Sinclair.

In the interim, the Chamber and Development Commission relocated to an office in the Family Service Center near Keller Intermediate, courtesy of the school district.

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

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Sunday 5:05, 7:05
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Saturday 4:50, 7:00, 9:05
Sunday 4:50, 7:00
Wednesday-Thursday 7:15

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Proceeds benefit Baker County High School PBIS program

MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Rhoden's raise to help fill role in future

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Phil Rhoden usually isn't the center of attention at Macclenny City Commission meetings. So, when his salary became a topic of debate at a board meeting the evening of April 10 he clearly

didn't want to be there. "This is very uncomfortable for me," said Mr. Rhoden when a proposed salary hike for the city manager's position came up for debate. "I didn't request it. I'm very appreciative for what staff has done."

He then asked to be ex-

cused and allowed to go home while the board continued the rest of the meeting without him. Moments after he left Commissioner Cecil Horne Jr. commented: "I don't blame him. If it was me I'd want to leave, too."

If Mr. Rhoden, who was hired a few years ago after leaving a career at Northeast Florida State Hospital, had stuck around he might have become even more uncomfortable at all the accolades and words of praise for his leadership at city hall.

After extolling his virtues of humility and dedication to public service, commissioners approved an increase in the city manager's yearly salary from \$80,225, which they all agreed was far too low, to \$92,400.

Money for the raise, which becomes effective on May 1, is readily available in the current budget without necessitating any cuts elsewhere, officials said.

"The \$92,400 is still on the low side, but it in no way endangers our budget," said Mayor Mark Bryant, who first suggested last month that the city manager's salary receive a substantial uptick. "It's more in accordance with like cities."

The salary adjustment was prompted primarily by a 2017 survey conducted by a national executive recruiting firm which compared budget information, including salaries and other data, from municipalities throughout Florida.

The salary for the Macclenny (pop. 6519) city manager was one of the lowest among cities of similar demographics in the survey, including: Perry (pop. 7045), \$132,392; Live Oak (pop. 6965), \$92,000; Alachua (pop. 5813), \$138,654; Green Cove Springs (pop.



City Manager Phil Rhoden

6970), \$130,723; and High Springs (pop. 5813), \$90,000.

Commissioners and city hall staffers also pointed out that Macclenny's manager is responsible for multi-million-dollar municipal water and wastewater treatment systems, whereas other small municipalities on the survey list do not own such facilities.

"It's more like managing a business," said Mayor Bryant of the city manager's role.

Board members previously have stated that when Mr. Rhoden retires in the next few years the city will need to have a salary high enough to compete with other similar sized municipalities also seeking new managers.

"We all know that he's going to retire shortly," said Mr. Horne, adding that a higher salary would be necessary to attract good candidates in the future.

As the city continues to grow, particularly now that the economy and home building industry is growing stronger following the economic meltdown in 2008, city officials say it will become even more crucial in future years to have salaries commensurate with the skills and educational backgrounds of top administrators.

It's ironic that the pay raise for the city manager comes a year after Mr. Rhoden spearheaded a successful move to seek salary increases for city commissioners. But they said the only reason for bumping up the manager's salary now was because it was revealed as shockingly low in the survey.

"Phil is an amazing fellow and he does a great job," said Mayor Bryant, adding that Mr. Rhoden is on call 24/7, even when on vacation, and often can be found late at night with utility crews when a water or sewer main bursts, or tending to some other crisis situation.

"He's down in the trench-

es quite literally, sometimes," the mayor said, noting that the city manager also must stay on top of budget matters, deal with city engineers, contractors and state agencies, and attend to numerous other duties and responsibilities.

Melissa Thompson, administrative assistant to the city manager, said Mr. Rhoden's retirement benefits won't be affected by the salary increase because he entered Florida's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) a couple of years ago and his benefits "are already set."

In other business the city commission:

- Approved an application for voluntary annexation of another residence in the Owens Acres subdivision, raising to at least half a dozen families in the past year in the same neighborhood that have become city residents and taxpayers at their own request.

The main driving force behind the annexations has been the failure of private wells to pump clean drinking water largely in the subdivision between Christie Court and Thomas Circle North.

Assistant City Manager Mike Griffis said wells in the neighborhood have mysteriously "started to collapse and pump sand. We don't know why."

In some cases property owners have also experienced problems with their septic systems and have connected to the city's water and sewer systems. The annexation approved last week for Joel and Kimberly Wilkin-son's home at 1015 Christie Court, however, only required them to hook up to the municipal water system.

The couple signed an agreement with the city stipulating that they would connect to the city sewer and pay all associated fees if their private septic system should ever fail.

"It's a win-win," said Mayor Bryant. "They get good clean water and the city gets tax revenue."

Failed to pay rental store

JON SHUMAKE

Six people were named in criminal complaints for felony fraud in four incidents that involved failing to pay for items leased from Rent-A-Vision

Deputies John Mallard and John Taylor responded to the business and met with the manager, who said several attempts were made to contact the suspects to retrieve the items — valued at a combined \$246,677 — to no avail, according to the four reports.

The incidents involved:

- Amanda Pickett, 25, of Baldwin and Ronald Pickett, 37, who had no city of residence listed, with a laptop valued at \$746.58.

- Jazmin Alexander, 20, and Kevohntae Hadley, 24, both of Macclenny with a queen bed frame, queen mattress and an Xbox One valued at a combined \$762.47.

- Michael Johnson, 41, of Macclenny with a flat screen television valued at \$1185.74.

- Ashley Copeland, 33, of Sanderson with a sectional couch and a rug valued at a combined \$1551.88.

In another case, a Macclenny man who was trespassed from Walmart was named in a criminal complaint for stealing \$66.79 worth of food items from the store on April 5.

Store security told Deputy Justin Yingling during a follow-up investigation on April 10 that Daniel Kent, 41, placed items from his shopping cart into a duffel bag and exited the store without paying. A records check during the initial investigation on April 5 revealed Mr. Kent was banned from the store in August, 2012.

As a result, charges of petty theft and trespassing after warning, both second-degree misdemeanors, were filed through the state attorney's office.

Grimsley will visit

Florida Senate Agriculture Committee chair Denise Grimsley of Wauchoula in Hardee County will host a meet-and-greet event on April 23 at Heritage Park starting at 2:30 p.m. for her campaign for another state office, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

That post is now held by fellow Republican Adam Putnam, who is running in a crowded field for the state governorship. Sen. Grimsley was first elected to the Florida House in 2004 and later the state senate in 2012. She was re-elected without opposition in 2016.

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BAKER CORRECTIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board says no-go on funding for new jail staff

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden is seeking seven new corrections deputies at the county jail to enhance the security of employees and inmates, which he says is critical to recruiting and retaining good staff.

But how those nearly \$280,000 worth of additional deputies will be funded remains an open question as the county and the nonprofit owner of the jail, the Baker Correctional Development Corporation (BCDC), begin planning their budgets for the upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year, which starts October 1.

The county's first budget meeting is set for May but the BCDC board of directors started budget talks the afternoon of April 11 after being presented with a budget request from the sheriff's office totaling \$5,349,394.

The sum is about \$307,000 more than the current corrections personnel budget, which BCDC funds, albeit typically a month or so late. In fact, a projection shared by BCDC accounting consultant Michael Givens last week shows the nonprofit will likely post a roughly \$72,000 deficit this month, meaning routine expenses for April may outstrip this month's revenue by that margin.

BCDC chairman Ed Barber expects the deficit will likely be erased by delaying payments to the sheriff's office until more revenue arrives in May, when Mr. Givens estimates there will be a surplus of about \$33,000 due to the spike in federal inmates that arrived in mid-March.

The average daily population for the month was 506 prisoners at the 508-bed facility, though Sheriff Rhoden had to work out an arrangement with the Bradford County jail to house local inmates from Baker County to free up space for federal detainees, which generate more revenue than county inmates.

And while the increase in personnel spending includes higher retirement and health insurance costs, the latter presumed to be 15 percent above the current year, BCDC board members were clear in their opposition to



BCDC chairman Ed Barber (center) addresses fellow board members Mark Broughton and Jack Baker Jr. (far right). Board secretary Sharon Padgett and Sheriff Scotty Rhoden are also pictured at left.

spending more on workers at the facility next year.

"We have no way to pay for them ...," commented board member Jack Baker Jr., adding that two months ago BCDC hit a cash crisis when it didn't have enough money on hand to both make a semi-annual debt service payment and fund payroll for BCSO corrections.

He and other board members, including Mr. Barber, also said they weren't comfortable allocating any of the expected savings from a potential refinancing of the BCDC's bond debt through a low-interest federal loan, which could save the nonprofit \$2 million or more per year, for more personnel at the jail.

The request for more corrections officers included four deputy positions that were contingent on the eventual refinancing and savings, which could be finalized in the next six months or so.

Sheriff's office finance manager Jeffrey Cox noted that without four positions tied to the potential savings the year-over-year increase shrinks to about \$70,000, which is roughly the difference in the projected personnel spending total for the current fiscal year — \$5,279,406 — and the amount requested for the coming fiscal year, about \$5.35 million.

"We're doing all we can on the revenue side with the refinancing and we've got to figure out a way to attack the expenditure side," said Mr. Baker. "And sheriff, to be quite frank, \$5.3 million just is not going to cut it. We

can't absorb that. We can't pay it. I'd love to sit here and say that's not going to be a problem. I'd love to tell you that. But I can't tell you that based on what we're seeing. We're barely paying for what we need."

On top of the proposal for more deputies at the jail, BCDC is also expecting to pay its second-largest vendor about \$213,000 more in 2018-19 thanks to an annual increase included in its new five-year contract with the sheriff's office signed about this time last year.

"We've got to be conservative on this thing because we have no idea what the future holds," said Mr. Barber, who said while he is optimistic the refinancing will happen, he's only "50 percent optimistic," and history suggests the number of federal inmates could drop significantly in the future, too.

Sheriff: Without more officers, guards not safe

With BCDC board members balking at the request for additional employees, Sheriff Rhoden may turn to county commissioners to address what he said is a lack of safety for corrections officers inside the jail.

Today the county pays BCDC \$2.8 million annually in 12 equal installments at the beginning of the month for housing local inmates, regardless of how many are there. During the spike in federal detainees in March, the county's average daily population was 121, which is close to where it's been since the start of the fiscal year in October, 2017.

creases could put the long-term viability of the whole facility at risk. He said if BCDC cannot pay its debts and the jail complex is turned over to a private company, employees would likely be offered substantially less pay and benefits than they're receiving now.

"The people that came before us did some incredible things but they also made some incredible mistakes and we were underwater from day one," said Mr. Barber. "This facility was not built for efficiency. At some point in the future ... there may be some structural changes that could be made to reduce the number of people you have to have back there ..."

Short of identifying more revenue somewhere, the chairman said he "cannot see how we go over budget with more money."

"We need to make sure next year isn't our Waterloo," said Mr. Barber after noting that the refinancing may increase cash flow in the near term but the money still has to be paid back in the long term.

Mr. Givens had already presented graphs showing that even with a successful refinancing, the project savings of some \$2 million a year would evaporate in six years, presuming a 1 percent annual growth in revenue

and 5 percent annual growth in expenditures. With 3 percent annual growth in expenditures the savings could be wiped out after 10 years, his long-term analysis showed.

"There's been a lot of hopeful talk about the value of the refinancing ...," said Mr. Givens. "But as we budget, don't lose sight that a better financing arrangement does not solve the other two structural problems," said Mr. Givens, referencing the board's limited ability to influence inmate counts and thus revenue, or expenses, since the sheriff's office manages day-to-day operations.

"This [the refinancing] isn't the solution. It's part of the solution," he said.

The next budget meeting is May 9 at 1 p.m.

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Jail population hits record high mark

JOEL ADDINGTON
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The county jail had more inmates last month than it's ever had in the facility's nearly 10-year history.

Prisoners move in an out of the jail daily but one day last month, when an influx of detainees from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) started arriving, the inmate population hit 533 people, said Jeffrey Cox of the Baker County Sheriff's Office during the monthly Baker Correctional Development Corporation's (BCDC) board of directors on April 11.

BCDC owns the facility, but it's managed by the sheriff's office.

The boom in detainees was attributed to ICE rounding up more illegal immigrants these days and thus needing more space at the jail, which was designed for a capacity of 512 with 16, 32-bed dorms.

ICE had been leasing space for nine dorms — eight for men and one for women — but requested another full dorm for males more recently.

Last week the inmate count was 523 — 295 from ICE, 103 from the U.S. Mar-

shals Service and 125 from the county.

"They wanted [another] whole dorm," said Sheriff Rhoden. And they wanted it in three days time.

To make room for the additional detainees, while still keeping ICE inmates separate from local and US Marshals inmates, which can be housed together, as well as siloing females to their own dorms, BCSO moved out some local prisoners to the jail in Bradford County, where housing them costs \$50 per day compared to the \$84 per day ICE prisoners garner BCDC here.

The day of the board meeting last week, five county prisoners were housed in Bradford County, though Lt. James Messer, who manages the jail for BCSO, noted there were as many as 15 county inmates there at one time.

"It's a bit of a balancing act," he said of moving inmates around to maximize revenue while keeping the federal agencies happy.

Sheriff Rhoden said his staff reviewed the cases of every county inmate to find out who could be released early or have their bond reduced through the court system.

"We're starting to utilize the ankle monitor. That bill

is anywhere from \$12 to \$22 we're responsible for," said the sheriff.

He hopes ICE will continue to need a high number of beds here long term, too, but that also puts a strain on personnel.

"We're busting at the seams with inmates right now and that's a good thing, but it's a bad thing because we don't have the manpower to keep up with everything back there," said Sheriff Rhoden.

BCDC board members were nonetheless pleased, however, with the increased number of ICE prisoners, which should boost revenue in May, once March invoices are paid.

"Thank you for thinking outside the box and coming up with a way to generate some revenue," said board member Jack Baker Jr.

Board members had their own ideas to generate some cash, too.

Sharon Padgett, board secretary, suggested looking at bringing the commissary business in-house, rather than allowing a vendor sell food, toiletries and other items to inmates for a profit, even while paying the sheriff's office, which delivers items to prisoners, some \$14,000 a month.

"That's a money-maker,"

said Ms. Padgett of the commissary business.

Sheriff Rhoden didn't favor the idea, however, saying it would be a difficult business to start and manage as the sheriff's office doesn't have existing relationships with suppliers or anywhere to store commissary products in bulk.

Mr. Baker also recommended bidding out the medical service contract with Armor Correctional Health, which could be discussed at the board's next budget meeting on May 9 at 1 p.m.

A third budget meeting is also scheduled for May 23. The meetings are open to the public and take place at the sheriff's office.

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OPINION

The missing chapter in Comey tell-all

All the talk on the national news stations is about the ongoing feud between President Trump and former FBI head James Comey with the publication of Comey's book *A Higher Loyalty*. The back and forth has been nasty with Trump calling Comey a slimeball and Comey labeling Trump an incompetent.

It makes for good television and will certainly will go a long way to sell books. Comey has been making the rounds of talk shows and the President has been doing his best to crash the Twitter server.

What I've discovered as an intrepid investigative reporter is that there was a lot of stuff that Comey had written about his life in the FBI and service under presidents Obama and Trump that didn't make it into the final copy. The final copy naturally wanted to focus on his feud with the President and some of these other nuggets were edited out.

I, however, was able to locate these deleted portions and I will give you a taste of what might be in the sequel.

Chapter 2 – A Comey Carol.

"The night before my big meeting with President Trump, I made the mistake of eating Korean food with my deputy Andrew McCabe. The kimchee was great but boy I regretted it that night.

I was already worried about meeting with the President, tossing and turning all night. About 4 a.m. I awoke in my bed to the sound of chains clanking down the hallway. I sat up in bed and grabbed my service revolver from the bedside table."

"James Comey!" Said an unnatural, unworldly voice. "James Comey!"

"Who ... who ... is ... is it?" I stammered.

"It is I, J. Edgar Hoover."

An ethereal figure passed through my door. It had an unnatural glow, but its ghostly figure was not the most unusual part. The ghost of J. Edgar

was dressed in a floor length Dior gown and the sound I'd heard was not chains but string after string of pearls. I'd always heard rumors that J. Edgar liked to cross-dress.

"Oh, ghostly spirit, why have you come to this place."

"I am the ghost of FBI Directors past and I have come to warn you.

I am the first of three spirits who will visit you tonight."

"What are you warning me about."

"Presidents. Be careful when President Trump shakes your hand. He will pull you close and whisper strange nothings in your ear."

"Strange nothings?"

"You'd be surprised what LBJ whispered in my ear. He had garlic breath so bad it nearly knocked me down. He wanted me to investigate Richard Nixon for bugging his office. Nixon wanted me to investigate everyone in Washington."

"And President Trump?"

"I'm not sure but I think it has something to do with Las Vegas showgirls."

"Surely not."

"Don't call me Shirley. Goodbye, James Comey. And good luck."

"Come back, J. Edgar. Come back. Is there any

more I need to know?"

"Know what? Where am I?" Another spirit, a tiny sprite had appeared in my room.

"Who are you? A Keebler Elf?"

"No, James Comey. I am the ghost of Attorneys General Present. I am Attorney General Jeff Sessions."

"How can you be Jeff Sessions? You're not dead."

"I am to President Trump. He won't see me or answer my phone calls. When he does talk about me on Twitter it's to insult me and call me short."

"You are pretty short, Ghost Jeff Sessions. Why are you here?"

"To warn you."

"About what?"

"The Ghosts yet to come."

"Ghosts? I thought there were only three ghosts."

"Who's counting? Goodbye James Comey. Good luck." He disappeared and almost immediately my bedroom was covered in fog and insane, clown-like laughter. Three robed and hooded figures appeared before me. I was frightened beyond all fear I had ever felt before in my life.

"No. No. No. Not you! Not the Ghosts of Fox and Friends. Help. Please help me. I'm terrified. Help me, Help me. Not Fox and Friends. Help me. Where are you? Oh, no. Look at the time. I have to go meet the president."

I'm not quite sure why this chapter didn't make it to the book. I might ask about that if he ever does a book signing at Barnes and Noble.

My Side of the Matter

Robert Gerard

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NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE

Director retires, replaced on spot

JOEL ADDINGTON
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After 24 years leading the staff at the New River landfill for the New River Solid Waste Association, Darrel O'Neal, 66, announced he was retiring during the association's monthly board of directors meeting April 12.

Following a presentation of about how the landfill has evolved since the association was created in 1988, Mr. O'Neal recommended the board, which consists of county commissioners from Baker, Bradford and Union counties, including Cathy Rhoden and James Croft of Baker County, appoint his assistant, landfill assistant director Perry Kent, as his replacement.

Mr. O'Neal is recovering from a recent back surgery.

The board voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation following a brief discussion about Mr. Kent's salary and the board's authority to make the decision despite it not being on the advertised agenda.

"I know that our county if it's not on the agenda, we're not allowed to actually take action on it. It has to be an agenda item to take it up," commented Mr. Croft.

However, Mr. O'Neal responded that he told the board back in November he planned to retire and never placed it on the agenda because "it's your business."

"I don't know that it would get on the agenda unless this board decided to put it on there," said the director, who officially retires May 1 with a going away party planned for three days later.

Then, prior to the vote, association attorney Russell Wade weighed in regarding Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law and notice requirements.

"It's not a Sunshine Law issue," he told the panel. "It's a board policy issue."

While meetings must be publicly noticed in advance, agendas or agenda items are not required to be publicly noticed, though the Attorney General's Office recommends making agendas for government meetings available to the public beforehand whenever possible.

"In general you want to try to follow agendas under the Sunshine Law, so if you want to agenda that item for another meeting that's fine. But you're open for business on this agenda and replacement of a retiring director is one of those things that's been known for some time... I don't think it's required."

After that, a motion to replace Mr. O'Neal with Mr. Kent was approved 6-0. Following the vote, Mr. Croft asked whether the board should vote on Mr. Perry's salary, which is about \$10,000 higher than Mr. O'Neal's salary of some \$74,000.



PHOTO BY X
 Outgoing landfill director Darrel O'Neal and association chair Karen Cossey.

Mr. O'Neal responded that he'd recommend making any salary changes during budget deliberations for the coming fiscal year this summer.

"It's not about the money, right Perry?" the retiring director asked.

"Right," said Mr. Perry, who agreed to begin working as the director at his current pay rate. "I'm fine with that."

About 45 minutes earlier Mr. O'Neal began a slide show presentation that he described as a comprehensive look back at the 850-ton-per-day facility that was planned after a federal solid waste management act passed in 1986 and a 13-county study on a regional solid waste authority.

A year and a half later, three counties — Baker, Bradford and Union — created the New River Solid Waste Association via an inter-local agreement in 1988. Nearly a decade later in 1997, New River began the disposal location for Alachua and Gilchrist counties, the former of which is New River's biggest customer today accounting for more than 70 percent of all waste taken there.

The facility, located in Raiford in Union County, went from accepting about 125 tons per day to 750 tons "overnight," said Mr. O'Neal. A contract was signed with Levy County in 1999 that also continues to today and will go at least through 2023.

Alachua County's contract, meanwhile, expires at the end of the year and New River has been in discussions with its solid waste department in recent weeks.

Last year in total, New River accepted 267,174 tones of waste, 72 percent of it originating in Alachua and Gilchrist counties, 9 percent from Levy County and the rest from the member counties — Baker and Bradford about 7-8 percent and Union about 4 percent.

The original landfill measured 200 acres and opened in July, 1992 with eight employees and a budget of some \$900,000. Now the staff has doubled in size and the budget grown to some \$8 million.

"We've come a long way,"

said Mr. O'Neal.

A decade later the landfill added another 300 or so acres for future expansions that have given the facility at least 64 more years of capacity at the current rate of waste generation.

The facility's long-time research partnership with the University of Florida has been part of the hallmark of New River since the beginning, the outgoing director said.

A dozen doctoral students, nine graduate students have logged research at New River, many of them now working for the Environmental Protection Agency, in academia or with national and international engineering firms.

They and landfill personnel have all helped the facility "pursue innovative technologies and methodologies to reduce waste, maximize the use of landfill space and maintain reasonable solid waste disposal costs for its users," he said.

"We're very proud of that ... We have state-of-the-art double-lined landfills except

for Cell 1. We have eighteen gas monitoring wells and after 18 years we've never had a [contamination] hit," continued Mr. O'Neal.

The facility has also returned more than \$13 million in "host fees" to member counties, including some \$3.7 million to Baker County to offset costs of its solid waste management program.

Mr. O'Neal noted that he leaves New River with more than \$40 million in the bank to cover all of the landfill's future closure costs and more than two-thirds of the costs for long-term monitoring of the closed facility.

Looking to the future, he hopes New River will start a composting program, install a sewage injection system to boost landfill gas production, continue pursuing a project to monetize the gas from the landfill's gas collection system by using it to generate power for sale, eventually reclaim existing landfill cells and recycle some of the waste to increase capacity for new waste and "hang in there with Alachua County."

"With Alachua County, we can do a better job of protecting the environment and with our operations," said Mr. O'Neal.

In other business last week, the board:

- Bought a track hoe that the association has been renting for some time for \$65,000. The lease has already cost the association \$54,000.
- Declared surplus used equipment — a tractor, grader, bulldozer and mini-excavator — for an online auction.
- Renewed a dozen routine service contracts with no price increases.

Unlicensed driver 3X over legal limit

JON SHUMAKE

A Glen St. Mary woman with multiple license suspensions was arrested in the early hours of April 13 for DUI and blew a breath sample of .262, more than three times the legal limit.

Cpl. Marc Heath stopped Jessica Jones, 27, at SR 121 and Woodlawn Road about 1:10 a.m. after police received reports of a vehicle swerving in and out of both lanes on I-10 west. He positioned himself behind her 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe on the exit ramp, and saw her fail to fully stop at the stop sign at the SR 121 intersection.

A records check revealed her South Carolina license was suspended five times and her Florida ID card was twice. She also performed poorly during a field sobriety test after Cpl. Heath smelled alcohol coming from the vehicle and noted Ms. Jones spoke with slurred speech and had watery eyes.

Ms. Jones initially refused the breath test after being taken into custody, but eventually consented. In addition to DUI she was additionally charged with driving on a suspended or revoked license.

In another incident, a habitual traffic offender from Glen St. Mary with an active local warrant was jailed the night of April 9 after he was caught behind the wheel by Detective Buck Dyal on Crews Road.

The officer stopped James Tyson, 44, just before 10 p.m. because knew of the warrant, assisting Deputy Mitchell Wight reported. A check revealed Mr. Tyson's was suspended three times with a revocation for being an habitual offender.

His habitual status carried a felony charge.



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Bringing roofing needs to a professional level at competitive prices

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- Free hail damage inspections (familiar with insurance claims)
- Re-roof
- New roof
- Repairs
- Steep or Flat

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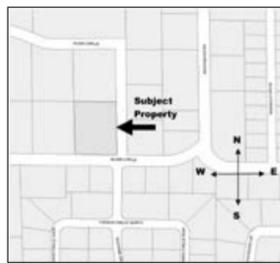
904-435-ROOF (7663)

CCC: 1330709

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. 18-08, "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 DON BURNSED OF PARCEL 30-25-22-0000-0000-0460; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE." The Subject Property consists of approximately 1.65 acres located on the north side of River Circle, west of Miltondale Road (see map below).

SYNOPSIS: Ordinance No. 18-08 involves an application for voluntary annexation of approximately 1.65 acres into the City of Macclenny. The Subject Property's Future Land Use Map ("FLUM") and Zoning Map designations shall be changed from its Baker County designations to equivalent City categories. 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, May 8, 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, June 12, 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LARGE SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE BAKER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TRANSMITTAL

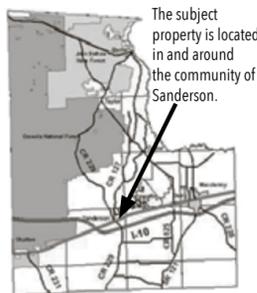
The Baker County Local Planning Agency will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Baker County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny Florida, to consider adoption of a Large Scale Amendment, by ordinance to the Baker County Comprehensive Plan. The Amendment request was generated from a Small Planning Technical Assistance Grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public in the Commissioners office, address stated above. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinances which are titled as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, MAKING A LARGE SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE BAKER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CODIFIER AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public in the Commissioner's office, address stated above. In accordance with Section 286.0105, F. S.: "If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the County Commission with respect to any matter considered at this scheduled meeting or hearing, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at (904) 259-3613 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

An automated system for help with utilities

A new automated appointment scheduling system has been established for residents of Baker and surrounding counties seeking assistance with utility bills.

The system set up by Northeast Florida Community Action Agency will be user-friendly and can direct overflow calls and other inquiries to a call center. All data entered into the system will be secure.

Call toll-free 844-625-8776 to schedule an ap-

pointment via an interactive voice response system or through operators. Appointments can be arranged up to 14 calendar days in advance.

An operator will be available for callers requiring assistance between 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

NFCAA conducts outreach, accepts referrals and prioritizes services for the elderly, disabled and households with children ages five and under.

Find the legals each week online at
www.bakercountypress.com

CIRCUIT COURT

Long prison sentences for drug dealers

Circuit court juries on successive days last week convicted four Baker County drug dealers on charges dating back to last year based

on undercover buys, and all were promptly sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years.

All of the defendants have

extensive criminal records including convictions for drug-related felonies that factored into stiff sentences based on state recommended guidelines. Two of them have served multiple state prison sentences.

During the first trial held on April 10, a supporter of defendant Reginald Keith found himself facing a half-year in county jail for making a threatening gesture to a key witness on the stand [see related story at right].

Mr. Keith, 31, of Macclenny, was convicted of selling marijuana to the undercover buyer at a south city residence on November 14. He still has a pending case for sale of both pot and cocaine, fleeing police and possession of prescription drugs, according to court records.

Judge James Colaw considered the fact that the defendant has past convictions for sale of prescription drugs, violation of a domestic violence injunction and resisting police. He ordered Mr. Keith to serve 15 years. State records indicate he has twice served time in state prison for drug offenses.

The following day, another jury found Christopher Cole, 28, guilty of sale and possession of meth on October 8 in south Macclen-

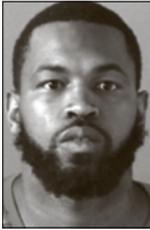
ny at his residence. He drew a sentence of 15 years followed by five years on drug offender probation.

Mr. Cole also has a pending case in circuit court, this one for theft from Walmart the following month. His past convictions date back to 2008 for offenses ranging from grand theft, two counts of possession prescription drugs resisting arrest and bringing contraband into county jail.

Michael Jerome Lee, 51, of Macclenny drew the stiffest sentence of 20 years when convicted on April 12 of multiple felonies and misdemeanors when he led county deputies on a high-speed chase in the south city midday on November 27. He was initially followed by a deputy who was aware he did not have a valid license.

The jury decided he was guilty of fleeing at high speed, aggravated assault for nearly colliding with another deputy and driving on a revoked license. Mr. Lee has pending cases of fleeing, aggravated assault on police and resisting.

Past convictions including possession of cocaine, sale of controlled drugs and aggravated battery, among others. DOC records indicate Mr. Lee has served four prison terms dating back



Reginald Keith



Christopher Cole

to 1993 for mostly drug offenses.

A fourth jury likewise convicted Randall Barton Sr., 47, of Macclenny of selling Oxycodone to an undercover buyer in late August of last year, and Judge Colaw ordered a ten-year term followed by five years on drug offender probation.

Mr. Barton has pending cases for battery, threatening a public servant, resisting arrest and disorderly intoxication, and a criminal record dating back to 1991 with convictions for other alcohol-related offenses, possession of prescription drugs and battery as a repeat offender.

His wife and co-defendant Kimberly Barton, 45, of Macclenny entered no contest pleas to similar charges in February and got six months in jail, a year on house arrest followed by 18 months on probation.

In other circuit court sentences by Judge Stanley Griffis on April 3:

Morgan Catlin, felony battery as repeat offender; 24-month drug offender probation, mental health and substance abuse evaluation, night curfew.

Pamela Church, probation violation (VOP) for welfare fraud; nine months in jail.

Michael Johnson, possession of prescription drugs (two counts), marijuana and paraphernalia; 44 days in jail, 36-month drug offender probation.

Jailed for gesture in court

Courtroom antics like this may work in TV dramas, but not in real life.

Keshawn Griffin, 19, of Macclenny went from the circuit court trial of Reginald Keith on April 10 directly to county jail for six months after Judge James Colaw caught a glimpse of him drawing a finger across his throat while looking directly at witness Charles Hadley as he and two others stood to leave the courtroom. Mr. Hadley was the confidential informant in the case.

The judge stopped the drug trial [see related article at left], ordered the jury out and send bailiffs downstairs to bring Mr. Griffin back to the courtroom.

During direct questioning, Mr. Griffin denied he did what the judge saw him do, and was found in direct contempt of court. He was immediately taken to jail.

This was not the first time Judge Colaw has dealt with a third party related to Mr. Keith. Last month he ordered the arrest of the defendant's girlfriend Tasha Coleman, 32, of Sanderson when he learned she had phoned a witness before an original trial date urging him to not testify against Mr. Keith.

She remains in county jail on the felony charge without bail.

Arrest for abusing live-in girlfriend

A Macclenny man was arrested the afternoon of April 14 for felony battery on his live-in girlfriend who told police he choked her to the point of near-unconsciousness at their Deerwood Circle residence.

Deputy Chad Montean took Micky Turner, 50, into custody based on statements by Tammy Sarabia, 44, that he choked and punched her repeatedly about the face during an argument.

The woman's father, Roger Andrews, 65, of Jacksonville said Ms. Sarabia phoned him to pick her up after an argument and he took her to the Circle K store on U.S. 90 to buy beer before she returned to the former bread truck where she and Mr. Turner resided.

The accused became angry when informed Ms. Sarabia wanted to call off their eight-month relationship, and choked her before repeatedly striking her about the face. Deputy Montean said she had lacerations on her face, redness around the neck and lacerations and bruising on her right leg.

When police got there about 3 p.m. Mr. Turner had fled into a nearby wooded area and gave himself up under threat of pursuit by one of the county K-9 dogs.

The evening of April 10, Da'Ron Thomas, 18, of Sanderson was arrested for brandishing a .32 caliber pistol and punching Christina Hauge, 23, of Glen St. Mary outside Bootsies (formerly the 121 Club).

The two and others had been involved in a verbal exchange earlier near the Mobile station on South Sixth in Macclenny, and black Camaro with Mr. Thomas as a passenger followed another vehicle to the lounge property where he allegedly cocked the pistol and waved it before approaching Ms. Hauge and striking her in the mouth.

Detective Ricky Crews spotted the Camaro after it left the scene and stopped it at a residence on Webb Road where the arrest was made. Two juveniles were in the vehicle, as was Corey Lauramore, 18, of Macclenny, believed to be the same person shot and killed during a home invasion early on April 15 in Glen St. Mary.

The same evening, William Brewer, 21, of Macclenny was named in criminal complaint for battery on Justin Womack, 25, described by Deputy Justin Yingling as his sister's boyfriend.

An altercation at the residence on Woodlawn Park Place took place after Mr. Brewer and several others were asked to leave.

Veterans Club

The Baker County Veterans Club meets the second Thursday of each month at Macclenny Primitive Baptist Church, 94 North Boulevard East.

A meal is served at 6 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30. All veterans are welcome.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings Mon. - Sat. @ 8 pm
8981 S. SR 228, Macclenny
Meeting Monday @ 6:30 pm
93 N. 5th St., Macclenny

LUNG CANCER
kills nearly twice as many American women as breast cancer each year.

KNOW
the signs and symptoms of this disease.

VISIT
www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org

National Lung Cancer Partnership
NATIONAL AMERICAN CANCER

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Quality Professional Care
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Private • Spacious • Indoor/Outdoor Runs
Complete Bath, De-flea & Groom \$22-\$27
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Spring Fling & RODEO

APRIL 26-29

CALL IN: Monday, APRIL 23
5 pm-10 pm
386-867-1299

Calf Roping, Breakaway, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding
\$50 entry fee
Team Roping
\$50 per run/enter twice
Wild Cow milking
\$25 per person

Midway:
6 pm Thursday-Friday
1 pm Saturday
2 pm Sunday
Rodeo:
7:30 pm nightly

Sample our New Midway!

Baker County Ag Fair

BAKER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
5567 Lauramore Rd. Macclenny

S&T Magic Amusement ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

THURSDAY	
Sydney Cox	7:00pm
Kassidy Kolwyck	7:30pm
Lonely Highway	8:00pm
Open Mic	9:00pm
FRIDAY	
Treble Hook	7:00pm
Kelby Shea	8:00pm
Blind Luck	9:00pm
SATURDAY	
PRO WRESTLING	4-6pm
Skip Johns & Lowlands	7:00pm
Southern Joy	8:00pm
Brittanie Powell	9:00pm
SUNDAY	
Sunday Cowboy Church	11am
Gospel Music	2-5pm

Blind Luck
Lonely Highway
Sydney Cox
Southern Joy
Brittanie Powell
Kelby Shea

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kills nearly twice as many American women as breast cancer each year.

KNOW
the signs and symptoms of this disease.

VISIT
www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org

National Lung Cancer Partnership
NATIONAL AMERICAN CANCER

Caught after fleeing in stolen car

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Two Macclenny men in a stolen car led police on a 9-mile high-speed chase the evening of April 12 in the area of CR 127 and CR 120, nearly hitting a vehicle with two detectives inside and crashing near Altman's Store before their eventual capture.

Michael Anthony Gray, 43, and Thomas Marvin Suggs Jr., 44, were believed to be possession of a gold Toyota Avalon stolen in Georgia. Police knew Mr. Suggs was wanted for drug possession and Mr. Gray didn't have a valid driver's license when the vehicle was spotted westbound on 120.

After passing two officers, Sgt. Patrick McGauley gave chase in his Tahoe, reaching speeds between 80 and 124 mph.

He said the fleeing vehicle didn't appear to slow until the last second as it approached detectives Thomas Dyal and Keith Parker in an unmarked pickup with emergency lights flashing on Pine Level Church Road.

The suspects' vehicle nearly got stuck in a ditch after turning south on 127 and began driving in the center of the roadway, forcing a few approaching vehicles to leave the roadway to avoid a collision.

Mr. Gray lost control of the Avalon after speeding through a stop sign at CR 125 and attempting to negotiate a curve in the road. He then fled on foot into a wooded area behind a mobile home after the vehicle hit a ditch, went airborne and then landed.

Sgt. McGauley and his K9 deputy Monsoor followed the suspect on foot. He was captured about 50 yards into the woods by Monsoor about 20 seconds after the dog was unleashed following a warning by the officer.

Mr. Gray was treated at Fraser Hospital for bite wounds before being taken to jail on felony counts including aggravated fleeing and eluding, assault on law enforcement officers and felony driving without a license, as well as other felony and misdemeanor counts.

Mr. Suggs, a passenger in the fleeing Avalon, was taken into custody without incident for the local drug warrant.

Additional drug charges may follow, Sgt. McGauley noted in his account of the chase and arrests.

In less serious case of resisting police, St. Marys Shoals Park Deputy Tim Hodges and patrolman Deputy Mitchell Wight arrested a disruptive 21-year-old from Orange Park for disregarding the former officer's commands to leave the recreation area north of Glen St. Mary following a verbal

50th reunion!

The Baker County High School class of 1968 will hold its 50th reunion on Saturday, June 23 at the Ag Center in Macclenny from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Graduates will celebrate and catch up with classmates during an evening of food, fun and music. Tickets are \$60 per couple; \$30 single.

For more information, please contact Brenda Higginbotham Crews at 259-6362 or text 904-651-4289.

Deadline for ticket purchase is June 9.

altercation with other park patrons.

Deputy Wight responded to assist Deputy Hodges with removing Jamie Reeves, who was described as combative and cussing at the park deputy.

"Deputy Hodges advised he gave Jamie numerous opportunities to leave the property peacefully but Jamie refused and continued

being verbally abusive to him," wrote the responding deputy.

Mr. Reeves was taken to county jail and faces to misdemeanor counts of trespassing and resisting an officer without violence.

Also recently, an inmate about to be transported to the courthouse was found during a pat-down search with tobacco hidden in a

knee brace and his shoes and now faces a felony count for smuggling contraband into the county jail.

Jason Maurice Byrd, 48, of Macclenny was seen on surveillance video removing the contraband from his rectum in the booking cell at the county jail.

LEGAL NOTICES



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) 598-9282
ganderson@murphyandersonlaw.com
4/5-4/26c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 02-2018-CP-0010

In Re: The Estate of KEVIN LYNN MEISTER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of KEVIN LYNN MEISTER, deceased, File Number 02-2018-CP-0010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is April 12, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Sandi Harvey

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Frank E. Maloney, Jr., Esquire
445 East Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-3155
Florida Bar No.: 142990
legalmail@frankmaloney.us
4/12-4/19c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Baker County, Florida, will conduct a Public Hearing and first hearing of a proposed Ordinance 2018-03, to be heard Tuesday, May 1, 2018 commencing at 6:00pm, at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL. A second and final hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 commencing at 6:00pm at the same address. A copy of the proposed Ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the County Administration Office, Macclenny, Florida. On the date mentioned all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to this proposed Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2018-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING Chapter 12 - CODE ENFORCEMENT, TO DISSOLVE THE CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD AND ALLOW THE USE OF A SPECIAL MAGISTRATE FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons having a special accommodation of an interpreter to participate in these proceedings should contact the County Commissioners Office at 904-259-3613, at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

4/19-4/26c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 02-2018-CP-0007

In Re: The Estate of JERRY LEE DENNISON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Jerry Lee Dennison, deceased, whose date of death was October 19, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Suite 113, Macclenny, FL 32063. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE 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 with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE COURT WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is April 12, 2018.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

Personal Representative:
Ruth K. McDonald
318 Lakeshore Drive
St. Augustine, FL

Attorney for Personal Representative:
William Mark Dennison
Florida Bar Number 012691
50 A1A North, Suite 108
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 280-5575
ruth.mcdonald@pvrittle.com
4/12-4/19c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No: 2018-DR-19 Case No: 2018-DR-21 Division: Family

SHARON FORD, Petitioner,

vs.
DEMETRIA DINKINS, TOMMY RUISE AND MICHELLE JOHNSON, Respondents.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTIONS FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY

TO: TOMMY RUISE
149 W. MCIVER AVE.
MACCLENLY, FL 32063

TO: DEMETRIA DINKINS
5026 DEREK ARLINE RD
SANDERSON, FL 32087-2427

TO: MICHELLE JOHNSON
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to Petitioner's attorney, BEVERLY BROWN, ESQ., Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc., 3225 University Boulevard South, Suite 220, Jacksonville, Florida 32216, Phone: (904) 394-7450 on or before May 19, 2018, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at Baker County Courthouse, 339 E Macclenny Ave, Macclenny, FL 32063, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

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

Dated: April 13, 2018

CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Melissa Haines
Deputy Clerk

Three Rivers Legal Services
3225 University Blvd., South, Ste. 220
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: 904-394-7450

4/19-5/10c

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 May 4, 2018 at 10:00 am at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery 7611 West Mt. Vernon St., Glen St. Mary, FL 32040:

2007 Chevrolet Silverado
VIN# 4T1B622KXYU706651
4/19c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case No.: 2016-CA-000121

Selene Finance LP Plaintiff,
vs.

Lynn Conley; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors and Lienors of Joanne E. Nolder, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant (s); Unknown Spouse of Lynn Conley; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000121 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, where in Selene Finance LP, Plaintiff and Lynn Conley are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Stacie D. Harvey, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash AT THE EAST DOOR OF THE BAKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 339 EAST MACCLENLY AVENUE, MACCLENLY, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, BETWEEN 11:00 A.M. AND 2:00 P.M. on June 7, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

A PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE NORTH 00°07'10" WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4, 715.42 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89°01'09" EAST, 325.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 00°07'10" EAST, 200.50 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89°01'07" EAST, 336.40 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 00°13'26" EAST, 200.50 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 89°01'09" WEST, 336.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A 30.00 FEET EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE NORTH 00°07'10" WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4, 900.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID WEST LINE NORTH 00°07'10" WEST, 30.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89°01'07" EAST, 325.95 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 00°07'10" EAST, 30.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 89°01'07" WEST, 325.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MANUFACTURED HOME, YEAR: 1989, MAKE: SKYLINE, VIN#: H76078GR, VIN#: H76078GL and VIN#: H760786K.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601 (352) 491-4490 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Stacie D. Harvey
Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Baker County, Florida

Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Shapiro, Fishman & Gaché, LLP
2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
(561) 998-6700
(561) 998-6707

4/12-4/19c

CITIZENS OF MACCLENLY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE at the regular meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida, the City of Macclenny will consider the below Ordinance for final reading:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT CREATING PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS TO CONSIDER AND ENTER INTO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITH ANY PERSON HAVING A LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF MACCLENLY; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS; PROVIDING FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR DURATION OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND EFFECTIVENESS OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Anyone having an interest in the final reading of this Ordinance is invited to attend the meeting.

4/19c

Richardson family reunion

The annual reunion of the descendants of Ellis and Sadie Richardson will be held on Saturday, April 28 at Franklin Richardson's farm on Richardson Road in Sanderson.

A covered dish dinner begins at 11 a.m. Please bring your lawn chairs. For more information, call Debbie Richardson at 275-2162.

Joint reunion set for April 21

The annual Kirkland/Johnson family reunion will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Oak Grove Baptist Church (SR 121 north to South CR 23D to the end of the road).

A covered dish dinners begins at 11 a.m. Please call Gary Kirkland at 904-501-7481 for more information. See you there!

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 2018-TD-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DAVID WALLS the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 89
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

PARCEL 135: A PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND SITUATE IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; AND RUN N 89 DEGREES 47'55" E, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 240.61 FEET; THENCE RUN S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 382.77 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 416.08 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 401.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN N 89 DEGREES 47'55" E, A DISTANCE OF 677.39 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NUMBER 139; THENCE UN S 00 DEGREES 34'51" E, ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 399.60 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING S 00 DEGREES 34'51" E, A DISTANCE OF 389.53 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF UNITED STATE HIGHWAY NUMBER 90; THENCE RUN S 77 DEGREES 45'04" W, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 613.95 FEET; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 47'56" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 47.95 FEET; THENCE RUN S 77 DEGREES 45'04" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 234.53 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A 60 FOOT PRIVATE ROAD (KNOWN AS BRAXTON ROAD); THENCE RUN N 12 DEGREES 14'56" W ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 151.65 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT; THENCE RUN NORTHWESTERLY, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 131.80 FEET AS MEASURED ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE SOUTHWESTERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 530.00 FEET, SAID ARC BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF N 19 DEGREES 22'24" W AND A DISTANCE OF 131.46 FEET; THENCE N 55 DEGREES 24'47" E A DISTANCE OF 605.70 FEET; THENCE RUN N 36 DEGREES 58' 50" W, A DISTANCE OF 438.71 FEET; THENCE RUN N 18 DEGREES 13'30" W, A DISTANCE OF 50.69 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER, ACROSS AND ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY THEREOF. SUBJECT TO A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER ACROSS AND ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF.

ALL OF SAID PROPERTY BEING LOCATED IN BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BOREE INVESTMENTS, LLC

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described herein will be sold to the highest bidder at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida on THURSDAY, MAY 17TH, 2018 at 11:00 A.M.

Dated this 12TH Day of APRIL, 2018

STACIE D. HARVEY
CLERK OF COURT
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Julie B. Combs
Deputy Clerk

4/19c

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PROJECT NUMBER 2018-07 Various County Roads for Resurfacing

BAKER COUNTY
WILL RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:
Various County Roads for Resurfacing
PROJECT NUMBER 2018-07

Bids must be received by:
3:30 PM local time
May 10, 2018
Late bids will not be considered.

Deadline for questions:
May 1, 2018 3:30 pm

Public bid opening:
May 10, 2018 3:30 pm
BAKER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG
55 NORTH THIRD STREET
MACCLENLY, FL 32063

Place for receiving bids:
BAKER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG
55 NORTH THIRD STREET
MACCLENLY, FL 32063

Bid documents available to download at:
www.bakercountyfl.org/purchasing

Contact for questions:
Robert Fletcher
robert.fletcher@bakercountyfl.org
(904) 275-2373

Project Description:
This project will consist of +-1.41 miles of resurfacing and new pavement markings.

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KENNIE DOWNING,
COUNTY MANAGER
4/19c

Women's Center of Jax
24-HOUR
RAPE CRISIS
HOTLINE:
904.721.7273

OBITUARIES

Friday service for Joey Crews, 49

Joseph "Joey" Kevin Crews, 49, of Macclenny died on April 15, 2018. He was born in Macclenny on June 10, 1968 to Roy Reece Crews and Sylvia Jean Humpreys. Joey was a lifelong resident of Baker County and graduated from Baker County High School in 1986. Shortly after graduation, he joined the Air National Guard where he proudly served our country the past 32 years. Joey thoroughly enjoyed his career and loved working. He also enjoyed fishing, singing karaoke, playing poker, riding dirt roads and most of all, spending time with his family and friends. Joey was an amazing father and grandfather who loved his family dearly and will be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his brother Stephen Crews and nephew Christopher Rodgers.



Joey Crews

Mr. Crews is survived by his loving parents Roy (Gayle) Crews of Jacksonville and Sylvia (Robert) Perdue of Macclenny; children Ashley (Victor) Salvador Salomao of St. Johns, FL, Joseph Caleb Crews and Joshua Garrett Crews, both of Macclenny; brothers Reece (Marie) Crews, Bobby (MarKay) Jackson, Carl (Cindy) Perdue and Terry Perdue; sisters Jamie (Clint) Durrence, Tammy Zoller, and Kathy (Tommy) Corns; mother of his children Kimberly C. Crews; grandchildren Penelopi Yvette, Joshua Corrbitt and Ariel Izabel; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of Joey's life will be held on Friday, April 20 at 11 a.m. at Christian Fellowship Temple Church. Interment with military honors will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the church. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Family is very grateful

The family of Minnie Crews would like to thank all of its friends and relatives for their love shown during the loss of our Mother. Thank you again for all of your prayers, every visit at home and Wells Nursing Home, and every song shared with her. All were so greatly appreciated. A special thank you to pastors Elmer Crews and Mark Woods for their wonderful services.

Thank you, Carolyn, Jimmy and Dwight

Margaret Humphrey, former resident

Margaret Nagle Humphrey, 101, of Moultrie, GA died Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at her home. She was born on September 20, 1916 in Pottstown PA, the daughter of the late Reuben Vanderslice and Margaret Huyette Vanderslice. Mrs. Humphrey retired as a registered nurse and was also a homemaker who along with her late husband resided in Baker County for many years.

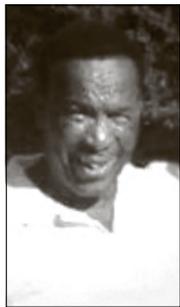


Margaret Humphrey

In addition to her parents and husband William B. Nagle Sr., she was predeceased by son William B. Nagle Jr., son-in-law Hubert Tucker and grandson Warren Tucker III. Survivors include daughters Mary Susan Hannigan and Bill of Hinesville, GA and Jane Nagle Tucker of Moultrie; grandchildren Beth Tucker Lewis and Wes of Moultrie, Bill Tucker and Wendy of Enon, OH, Suzanne Abbott and Grason of Akin, SC, Leslie Nagle Ponder and Bill of Atlanta, GA., Tripp Nagle and Ann of Atlanta, GA., Cindy Tucker Loffer and Myron of Pageland, SC and Richard Tucker of Atlanta; special friend and caregiver Elizabeth "Lizzie" Woodard.

Former resident Samuel Johnson, 69

Samuel L. Johnson, 69, of Jacksonville died peacefully on April 7, 2018 at Community Hospice of Jacksonville. Sam was born March 5, 1949 to Thomas and Louise Battles Johnson, and he was a former resident of Macclenny. Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by his parents, brother J. C. Johnson and son Bryan Givens.



Samuel Johnson

Rev. Johnson is survived by his loving children Keshia Johnson, Deirdre Johnson, Lawn (Robert) Church, Romonica Mitchell, Jasmine Gaskins, Marie Wilcox, Terrance Johnson; sisters Pauline Washington and Jewel Johnson; numerous other family members and friends.

Viewing will be held on Friday, April 20 from 4-6 p.m. at Emmanuel COGIC in Macclenny. The funeral service will be held Saturday, April 21 at 11 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Mt. Herman Cemetery. Combs Funeral Home of Lake City is in charge of arrangements.

Thanks for the support

The family of Marvin Davis would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his illness and passing. Special thank you to Pastor David Thomas for such an uplifting service and Guerry Funeral Home for their kindness and guidance. We would also like to thank our wonderful neighbors for everything as we would have not made it through without you.

The Davis Family

Obituaries and a photo are printed for free.

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church
CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL

Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm

Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
CR 127 N. of Sanderson

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:00 pm

Pastor Bro. Timothy Alford

Stivender, 78, former florist owner

Barbara Ann Stivender, 78, of St. George, GA died on Thursday, April 12, 2018. Mrs. Stivender was born in Thomasville, Georgia to the late Austin and Ann Giles, and grew up in Jacksonville and was a member of the first graduating class at Ribault High School in 1958. Eventually settling in St. George with her family, she enjoyed traveling, spending time near the water and going fishing with her husband until the time of his death. Mrs. Stivender was well known in Macclenny as the owner of Elegance "N" Bloom Florist for thirty years. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed shopping and collecting tea cups. Friendly and giving, Mrs. Stivender will be remembered as a compassionate, caring woman who was always willing to donate to a cause or help anyone in need.



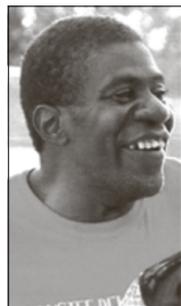
Barbara Stivender

She is survived by her brother Austin "Nick" (Sue) Giles of St. George; step-son Fred B. (Lori) Stivender Jr. of Macclenny; step-daughters Martha (Greg) Chapman, Melissa (Mike) Burnsed and Helen Hall, all of St. George; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and numerous other family members. She was preceded in death by her husband of forty years, Fred Stivender Sr.

A Mass of Christian burial was held 11 a.m. on Monday, April 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Macclenny with Father Bielasiwicz officiating. Burial followed at Oak Grove Cemetery, Glen St. Mary. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

'Duck' Wilcox, 48, dies on April 3

Ronald "Duck" Wilcox, 48, of Olustee died on April 3, 2018. He was born on September 12, 1969 and raised in Olustee, and was educated in Baker County schools. Mr. Wilcox was preceded in death by his grandparents Toby and Rosa Lee Wilcox.



Ronald Wilcox

He is survived by his mother Betty (Francis Williams) Wilcox, brothers Timothy Cason, Rogette Wilcox and Roland (Missy) Gaskins; sisters Kimberly, Carla and Judith; aunts, uncles, great-uncles; best friends Rufus Smith and Larry Holmes Jr.; many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for Mr. Wilcox was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 14 at Jerusalem Missionary Church in Olustee with Rev. TaJuana Spencer officiating. Cooper Funeral Home of Lake City was in charge of arrangements.

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS
Submission
Deadline:
Monday 5:00 PM

Community Full Gospel
Church
12664 Mud Lake Rd.
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm
Pastor Tommy Richardson || 904-275-2949

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

The Road to Calvary
Corner of Madison & Stoddard
Glen St. Mary
Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
Youth Director Kayse Fiano
Phone: 904-259-2213
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service: 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night: 7:30 pm

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523 North Boulevard W., Macclenny • 259-4529
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10:00 Sunday School/Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
6:00 Evening Worship
Wednesday:
6:00 Family Meal
7:00 Adult Service
7:00 Youth Services
Located at:
251 West Ohio Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063

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



Photos by Jon Shumake

A drug-free message of hope

Christian music filled the air along with drug-prevention testimony April 13 as dozens of people turned out for the Teen Challenge rally presented by A Day of Hope Inc. at the high school. Musicians involved with Teen Challenge Jacksonville, a Christian-based program to help people recovering from drug addiction, played worship music before people gave their stories of overcoming addiction. Roger Henderson (pictured right), a radio host on The Promise, also spoke about a woman named Michelle who was on the verge of committing suicide while addicted to drugs. He said the woman turned on the radio to play rock music as she injected a lethal dose of heroin, but the radio was instead on a Christian station, which ultimately helped save her life. "... I don't know if you've ever listened to Christian radio before but sometimes it has the ability to speak to exactly what you're going through. That's what it did to Michelle that day, and she decided not to take her life, which is an amazing thing," Mr. Henderson said. "... Now she's a mom and she's a wife and she's living a victorious life. And God used Christian music to help turn her entire situation around and we're all so thankful for that."



COUNTY COURT

Dispositions from April 11

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on April 11:

- Mary Bain, worthless checks; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Shannon Brennan, DUI with blood alcohol level .15 or higher with person under 18; two days credit, six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings and parenting class.
- Megan Bronson, marijuana possession; differed prosecution.
- Jeremy Bunton, reckless driving; six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings.
- Jerald Coleman, game law violation; differed prosecution.
- Dalton Conger, trespass; 17 days in jail, six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings and parenting class, no alcohol, no contact with Walmart.
- Blade Cook, marijuana possession; 12-month probation, attend group addiction meetings and parenting class.
- Christopher Crews, DUI, driving on a suspended license (DWLS); two days in jail, 12-month probation, attend group addic-

tion meetings and MADD event, impact statement.

- Suarez Davila, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Christopher Davis, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Jerry Davis, domestic battery, resisting arrest; 45 days in jail, 12-month probation, Give Back to Baker (GBB) community service, no alcohol, drugs or weapons, batterer's intervention class.
- Falana Dunnell, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Jasmine Durkovic, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Danielle Farrell, petty theft, giving false name to law enforcement; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Lauren Gaaney, failure to require child's school attendance; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- James Gazes, DUI; 12-month probation, 50 hours community service, attend group addiction meetings, six-month license suspension.
- Marcus Harper, DWLS; charge dropped.
- Brandy Howell, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- James Johnson, pos-

session of drug paraphernalia (two counts); 18 days in jail, six-month probation, GBB, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol or intoxicants.

- Anthony Lewis, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Crystal Malloy, failure to require child's school attendance, possession of drug paraphernalia; six-month probation, parenting class.
- Mindy Morgan, possession of drug paraphernalia; two days in jail, 12-month probation, GBB, attend group addiction meetings, no intoxicants.
- Kimberly Muse, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Melissa O'Neal; DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Joseph Reed, disorderly conduct; six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings.
- Leslie Ann Starling, possession of drug paraphernalia; 12-month probation, attend group addiction meetings.
- Christian Watkins, possession of drug paraphernalia; one day in jail, attend group addition meetings, GBB, no alcohol.

Williams reunion 29th

Descendants of L.L. and Opal Rewis Williams will hold their annual family reunion on Sunday, April 29 at the Ocean Pond landing picnic area.

Bring a side dish, folding chair, bug spray and sunscreen to the event starting at 2 p.m. for family and friends. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. The route is marked from U.S. 90 into the landing.

Cleanup is scheduled for April 21

The 20th annual St. Mary's River Cleanup is Saturday at various points along the river and its tributaries, including Turkey Creek here in Baker County.

The local cleanup effort will convene at the Pier 6 restaurant parking lot at 8 a.m. April 21 with the cleanup to finish about noon. Garbage bags, gloves and closed-toed shoes are recommended.

A celebration for the 20th annual cleanup will then take place at the White Oak Conservation. Sign up to participate at <https://bit.ly/2vnmWv9>. Call Dean Woerhle with any questions at (904) 845-2806 or (904)910-2531.

Spring fair run with new midway

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com



For the first time, the Baker County Fair Association is having a Spring fair run that beings next weekend featuring a new midway, live entertainment and a rodeo featuring bulls.

The association's board of directors decided to organize the four-day run starting April 26 in part due to poor reviews of the previous midway company, Premium Concessions of Hubbard, OH.

"At the end of last year fair the board determined we would find a new midway," said association president Roger Lankford by email last week. "Through our inspectors that we work with S&T Magic was recommended as a premier midway that was family run and well maintained with much newer equipment."

Mr. Lankford then traveled to Lakeland, FL to visit S&T Magic Amusements in person. He was very impressed, he said, with the rides and their condition.

"We determined that we wanted to introduce them to Baker County in the spring so the county would know them better for the fair time," he said.

S&T Magic of Orlando has rides that Baker County has never had before and what he called "super rides" that are dynamic. Mr. Lankford hopes to cultivate a long-term relationship with the company.

Secondly, he said, the addition of rodeo activities to the regular fall fair schedule has become difficult to manage alongside showcasing hundreds of livestock animals, youths and their families.

"We've also been developing an open hog show the first weekend of the fair. All of this creates a problem with parking and trying to conduct a solid rodeo," the president said.

Scheduling the rodeo in the springtime gives organizers the opportunity to make it bigger, longer and more exciting. "So we determined to combine the two with local singers and wrestling at the entertainment complex and make it a full weekend of entertainment and fun," said Mr. Lankford.

New to the fair rodeo this month will be bulls. And he says they're not the nice kind.

"I have been told they are mean," said Mr. Lankford.

The rodeo is open to anyone who wants to participate. Also new this year is an all-day Saturday team roping event and on Sunday afternoon will be barrel racing. Each evening will be the normal rodeo events plus wild cow milking contests.

"Because of the focus on the rodeo we are able to really make it a four-day event that will be exciting," Mr. Lankford predicted.

The rodeo is \$10 per person and includes the entertainment section as well. It's \$5 for access to the midway and entertainment area. Children 6 and under get in free. Arm-bands will be \$20 for unlimited rides.

The entertainment lineup is all local, seasoned performers, including Lonely Highway, and there will be an open mic night as well.

"We would like to bring in some large name entertainers in the future as we review our facility and the economics of booking some larger star power," said Mr. Lankford.

The parking arrangements will also be different for the spring fair. Only trailers will be allowed in the rodeo arena area for safety reasons and since organizers expect more participants.

New slag is also going down on the parking lot immediately north of the entertainment complex for those coming into gate 3 for \$5 "premier" parking.

As usual, sheriff's office explorers will be parking cars in the larger lot in the back weather permitting and the school parking lot will be used if the weather is bad.

Nonprofits will be selling food as well as a commercial barbecue vendor. The midway company will also have traditional fair food available.

"Our hope is that this goes well and can be an annual event in the spring," said Mr. Lankford. "We look to continue to bring quality entertainment to Baker County and do it while keeping the prices affordable ... Our goal is to bring quality at an affordable cost."

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

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The Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for Director of Community Development. This person provides a wide range of functions relating to the Baker County Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan through interpretation and implementation; performs plan review and coordination and other comprehensive planning, development and code enforcement activities. Minimum Bachelor's degree in urban/regional planning, economic development, community development or a related field from an accredited college or university and two years of planning, zoning or building is required. Must have an approachable personality and the ability to learn quickly. Excellent typing and computer skills with ability to operate Microsoft applications, such as excel, outlook, and word proficiently. Application and complete job description is available at the Baker County Administration Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny Florida 32063 or www.bakercountytfl.org/jobs Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 4:00pm. Baker County is a drug free work place and EO employer. Salary: \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually DOQ. 4/12-4/26c

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

Lake Property Liquidation Foreclosure Resale, \$39,900, before foreclosure sold for \$137,900, financing available. Being sold off May 5th. Watch Video: www.LakeLotsCloseout.com 877-712-3650. Florida Waterfront Marketing, LLC. Licensed Real Estate Broker. 4/19p

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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.



Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 274 East Macclenny Avenue. Moving/Estate Sale: Furniture, home decor, housewares, clothes, small appliances, tools, generators, lawnmower and more. Something for everyone. No early birds.

Friday & Saturday, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, First Baptist Church of Sanderson. Huge sale: Fill a bag for \$3 on most items. Priced to sell.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 am - ?, 5832 Lauramore Road. Huge sale: Wedding dress, dvds, girls (sizes 3T - 12), mens, womens, and some baby clothes, purses, jewelry, baby walker and much more.

Saturday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, 14257 Leonard Norman Road (off of Steel Bridge Road). Barn Sale: furniture, tools, household goods, pet-wares. Everything must go!

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 10357 North Clinton Avenue, Glen St. Mary. Name brand junior/misses clothes, home decor, furniture.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 6145 East River Circle, Macclenny. Indoor Estate Sale, great bargains, everything must go.

Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 14441 Wildcat Alley in Glen off of Odis Yarbrough Road. Moving sale: Refrigerator, oven, dryer, furniture, tools and miscellaneous items.

Saturday, 8:30 am & Sunday, 9:30 am, All Day sale: Come set up your yard sale items with us on busy Highway 121 South, across from the Exxon. For more information call James, 904-796-9298.

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Refreshing Recipes for a Healthier Spring

Add healthy avocado for fresh, creamy flavor



FAMILY FEATURES

For many, spring is an opportunity to hit refresh on many aspects of life, including what you eat. Rather than instituting a restrictive diet that forces you to cut back on your favorite snacks and dishes, consider making simple changes that can go a long way so you can enjoy the flavors of the season without sacrificing taste or eating less.

For example, Atkins offers a long-term, healthy lifestyle featuring a balanced approach of high-fiber carbohydrates, optimal protein and healthy fats, while focusing on reducing levels of refined carbohydrates, added sugars and “hidden sugars,” which are the carbohydrates that convert to sugar in the body – you can’t see them but your body does.

Fresh flavors abound during spring, and you can enjoy nature’s bounty while avoiding hidden sugars by selecting high-fiber, low-glycemic fruits and vegetables. For example, a single avocado contains 10 grams of dietary fiber in addition to healthy fat. Consider a menu comprised of recipes like Egg-Filled Avocado with Prosciutto, Avocado Kale Berry Smoothie Bowl and Thai Peanut Buddha Bowl.

Learn more about the benefits of a balanced, flexible, low-carb approach to eating at Atkins.com.

Thai Peanut Buddha Bowl

Recipe courtesy of “Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less”
Active time: 15 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Servings: 4

- Olive oil spray**
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (12 ounces total)**
- Dressing:**
 - 1/2 cup peanut butter
 - 3 tablespoons coconut milk
 - 1 tablespoon fish sauce
 - 2 teaspoons hot chili sauce
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
 - 1 tablespoon sesame oil
 - 3 tablespoons hot water
- 4 cups baby spinach**
- 1 ripe Hass avocado, thinly sliced**
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into noodle shapes**
- 2 carrots, cut into noodle shapes**
- 2 radishes, thinly sliced**
- 8 sprigs cilantro**

Heat oven to 400 F. Coat small skillet with olive oil spray. Add chicken to skillet and cook 3-4 minutes, turning once or twice to brown chicken. Slide into oven and bake 6-8 minutes, until chicken is cooked through and no longer pink in center when sliced with a knife. Set aside to rest 5 minutes then shred.

To make dressing: In large bowl, mix peanut butter, coconut milk, fish sauce, chili sauce, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and hot water. Whisk well until smooth.

Divide spinach and avocado among four bowls. Top with chicken, zucchini, carrots, radishes and cilantro. Drizzle with dressing and serve immediately.

Tip: If you don’t have a spiralizer, you can achieve the same effect by using a vegetable peeler to shave thin ribbons. You can also use a mandoline vegetable slicer then use a knife to cut the strips into thinner noodle-like strips.

Nutritional information per serving: 10.8 g net carbs; 427 calories; 18.1 g total carbs; 7.3 g fiber; 21.8 g protein; 30.7 g fat.

Egg-Filled Avocado with Prosciutto

Recipe courtesy of “Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less”
Active time: 10 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

- 6 ounces watercress or baby spinach**
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar**
- 8 large eggs**
- 4 ripe Hass avocados, halved lengthwise and pitted**
- olive oil spray**
- 8 slices (about 4 ounces) prosciutto**

Place the watercress or baby spinach in large bowl. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar and toss well. Divide among four small plates.

In large skillet, heat 2 inches water over medium heat until bubbles cover bottom

and sides of pan. Crack eggs into small bowl (do not use eggs with broken yolks). When a few bubbles have broken surface of water, gently pour each egg into pan, leaving room between them.

Cook eggs, without stirring, until whites are just set and yolks are still runny, 2-3 minutes. Use rubber spatula to gently release eggs from bottom of pan, if necessary. Using slotted spoon, remove eggs from water and drain on paper towels.

Place poached egg in each avocado half. Coat medium skillet with olive oil spray. Heat skillet over medium heat and add prosciutto. Cook until crispy, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer two avocado-filled egg halves to each plate and serve immediately with two slices prosciutto.

Nutritional information per serving: 4.1 g net carbs; 422 calories; 16 g total carbs; 11.9 g fiber; 18.5 g protein; 34 g fat.



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SPORTS

Cats swept by Bolles in district

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Trailing 2-0 at Bolles with two outs in the top of the seventh inning, the BCHS Wildcat baseball team needed a clutch at bat to extend the game.

That's exactly what the Cats got. Travis Neal tied the game with a two-run double to left field to keep the team's hopes alive.

But it still wasn't enough to avoid the District 3-5A series sweep against the two-time defending Class 5A state champions in the marathon game.

Bolles' Bryson Kirksey hit a walk-off infield single with one out in the 11th inning, scoring Hunter Barco from third base to catapult the Bulldogs to a 3-2 win on April 13.

The victory gave Bolles a 3-1 record in District 3-5A play, earning the Bulldogs the No. 1 seed in May's district tournament. Baker County and Suwannee are scheduled to open the tournament May 1 in Live Oak at 7 p.m., and the winner will play Bolles in the district title game May 3 at 7 p.m.

Baker County stranded a runner at third base after Neal's equalizing double, and pitcher Joel Satterwhite retired Bolles in order in the bottom of the seventh inning to force the extra innings.

The Cats (13-6) had at least one runner reach base in each extra inning, including Mason Davis' leadoff single in the eighth and having two runners on base with one out in the ninth. They couldn't capitalize on the opportunities, though, as no runner passed second base.

Bolles had runners reach in three of the four innings, but Baker County held the home team scoreless until the walk-off hit. Jordan Vanvactor helped turn a double play to end the eighth inning



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com
Catcher Wade Johnson tries to catch Mac Forrester sliding into home during the District 3-5A series opener on April 12.

Photos by Jud Johnson

after catching a line drive in center field and catching Austin Knight at second base for the force out.

Vanvactor also pitched 5 1/3 innings of one-hit ball with three strikeouts, but the one hit gave the Bulldogs the advantage about midway through the game. Knight hit a fourth-inning solo home run to left field to break the scoreless tie.

Barco extended the lead with a sixth-inning RBI single to center field to score Knight.

Hunter Noblitt and Neal both had two hits for the Cats, whose eight hits doubled Bolles' total. Neal and Jarron Hodges also pitched in the game, but Bolles' four pitchers combined for 13 strikeouts.

Barco pitched a complete-game one-hitter with 13 strikeouts, batted 2 for 2 with a double and two RBIs, and led Bolles to a 4-0 shutout over Baker County on April 12 in the district series opener.

Short stop Noblitt notched Baker County's lone hit on Barco's first pitch. He connected with a line drive up the middle, which ricocheted off second baseman



Short stop Hunter Noblitt looks to throw the ball after fielding it.

Max Ferguson's glove on a diving attempt in shallow center field.

Barco, a junior committed to Virginia, retired 15 of the next 16 batters, including his first strikeout to end the first inning and strand Noblitt at third base.

Noblitt also drew a walk with two outs in the third inning, but was again left in scoring position after steal-off second base.

The Bulldogs took the lead for good with a two-run second inning, but Neal nearly kept their first run from scoring.

After catching Kirksey's fly ball in right for the first

out, Neal fired the ball to catcher Wade Johnson to catch Mac Forrester from tagging from third. The throw beat Forrester to the plate, but the ball squirted free as Forrester slid safely for the go-ahead run.

Cal Henrichsen extended the lead by scoring on a suicide squeeze from third as Jack Brady bunted. Henrichsen doubled to left field earlier in the inning.

Caleb Crews pitched six innings, allowing three earned runs with six hits, five walks and three strikeouts. He received some defensive help behind him, including a 4-6 double play by Conner

Moore and Noblitt to end the first inning after Bolles drew a pair of walks.

Vanvactor also made two sliding catches in center field in the fifth inning, robbing the Bulldogs of apparent hits.

The Cats are scheduled to visit Santa Fe on April 19 and West Nassau on April 23 before returning to Baker County to play Eagle's View on April 24.

Cats run-rule Keystone

Baker County scored seven runs in the second inning on April 16, leading the team to an 11-1 home win over Keystone Heights in five innings to rebound from the district series.

Preston Sutton went 3 for 3 with a double and two RBIs. He connected with the go-ahead single during the team's three-run first inning and another RBI base hit during the second inning.

Noblitt, who extended his hitting streak to five games, and Clayt Smith both hit RBI doubles in the second inning. Colby Kennedy and Conner Moore hit two-RBI singles in the game, and Moore's hit capped the high-scoring second frame.

Satterwhite pitched four shutout innings, allowing four hits with as many strikeouts.

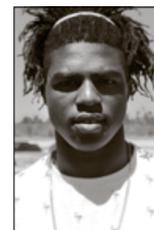
Belford signs to Edward Waters

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

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Another key member of Baker County's Class 5A runner-up football team has signed to play in college.

Wesley Belford signed his letter of intent to Edward Waters College on April 14 while at the school's Jacksonville campus with family by his side.



Wesley Belford

He became the sixth player in the football program's Class of 2018 to ink a college scholarship.

"It felt good knowing that I'll be furthering along my education and my football career into college," Belford said Tuesday.

He will still be joined by several familiar faces as he embarks on the next chapter of his playing career. Wildcat teammates Brian West and Tay Reed also signed to Edward Waters College on March 9, and will continue to play together for the next four years.

"I played with them through my whole high school career," said Belford, who plans to study business. "I know what they can produce. I know what I can produce and we're just going to represent Baker."

Belford said he could have signed the same day as West and Reed but he was still weighing his options.

Valdosta State was another contender, and both schools felt like home, he said. He opted with Edward Waters College because of the welcoming environment from the players and coaches, as well as its proximity to Baker County.

"Valdosta wasn't far for me but it was far for my parents," Belford said. "Once I decided Edward Waters would be closer for my parents to travel to my games I accepted to go to Edward Waters."

Belford enters the NAIA football program listed as an athlete after playing both wide receiver and cornerback for the Wildcats, but said he will likely play receiver and return kicks and punts for the Tigers.

Edward Waters College is coming off a 1-10 campaign in its first season as a member of the Mid-South Conference's Sun Division. The Tigers will play against three Sun Division teams featuring former Cats in Southeastern (Jacob Carter and Kenny Hall), Warner (Dalton Thomas) and Webber International (Jamon Jones).

The Macclenny resident said he's excited to begin the next phase of his education and playing careers.

"People say once you go to college it's a new life," Belford said. "Going to college starts a new chapter in your life and I'm ready to see how this chapter's going to go."

Challenging LGBTQ perceptions inside the ring

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Clad in a pink studded jacket and fishnet leg-gings, Taylor Gibson makes no effort to embrace the masculinity ingrained in professional wrestling.

Instead, the Tallahassee-based wrestler challenges those preconceptions while embracing his own identity.

Gibson, who wrestles under the ring name Effy, is one of the few openly queer active professional wrestlers. And when his matches begin, he aims to change the audience's perception of how LGBTQ characters have long been presented in the wrestling world.

"People look at me and think he might act girly, but when the bell rings I start laying into a guy and change their perception," said the 27-year-old. "... They're going to get really caught off guard when I start throwing rights and lefts. It's brutality in there, man."

Gibson began his wrestling training after finding sobriety following a battle with substance abuse. He made his in-ring debut at 23 years old.

"I traded in getting drunk for getting punched and I'm totally fine with it," he said.

He soon started performing for Destiny Christian Championship Wrestling, a company founded by Steve and Vanessa Pender designed to spread the Gospel. The company regularly runs shows — which involve a Bible reading and testimony in addition to the action — in Macclenny, including "Unbroken" scheduled for April 21 at Destiny People's Worship Center.

"They're telling their ministry, but I'm also giving an alternative opinion and everyone seems fine with it," Gibson said.

In fact, the Penders welcome his presence on the shows.

"It's more important to show that all people are welcome in that ring. That it doesn't matter if they are LGBT or what have you because we don't judge," Mrs. Pender said. "We embrace people. ...

We lead by example and we love everybody because that's our job as believers."

Gibson, like he has throughout the Southeast, has built his reputation in DCCW since his debut in 2014. He has worked his way up the promotion's ranks with his



PHOTO COURTESY OF PICS AND CLIPS MEDIA
Effy holds the DCCW United States Championship.

charisma and brawling in-ring style.

He now holds the company's United States Championship.

Although he debuted as a heel — wrestling jargon for villain — he has since garnered a near 50-50 split between cheers and boos, he said, as the crowd accepted his character.

"He's got this magnetism that people are attracted to. His personality comes through in the ring," Mrs. Pender said. "He has a very unique persona because it challenges the audience to wonder 'Who is this guy?' You end up loving him and embracing him in the end."

Effy is scheduled to defend the United States Championship at "Unbroken" against Tony Storm. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the first match beginning

at 7 p.m.

"When they give you chance to ... represent the company on a poster and be a big part of the show it means something extraordinary," said Gibson, who also holds the championship for Gainesville-based FEST Wrestling. "... I'm glad they took the chance to go down that avenue with me."

But not all crowds have been as welcoming as DCCW and the more adult-oriented FEST Wrestling. He has been on the receiving end of hate speech and slurs yelled from the audience. One person even approached him three separate times with different slurs on each occasion while Gibson was at his merchandise table.

Gibson isn't afraid to respond to the hateful speech, and it could inspire young people to do the same.

"If they want to bring the heat onto me then I'm going to stand here and fight back. I like having the character trait displayed in front of people," he said. "It gives kids the idea 'I don't have to put up with that stuff. ... I can fight back. I can fight back tall and proud.'"

Widespread acceptance could soon be on the horizon for LGBTQ people in the wrestling world. The WWE has recently started a pro-LGBTQ promotion with "Balor Club is for Everyone" involving Finn Balor, one of the company's most popular wrestlers. He entered the arena for his *WrestleMania* match surrounded by members of the New Orleans LGBTQ community, and has merchandise adorned with a rainbow design.

Having LGBTQ issues discussed in the forefront will only help the community's acceptance moving forward, whether as a wrestler or a fan, Gibson said.

"When we have these issues being pushed forward ... it kind of opens the door to say you're safe to come to these shows and if you have a problem let us know," said Gibson, who runs a moving company for his day job.

"The more of us who are outward and outspoken and welcoming with open arms the less hate will be tolerated."

Seniors honored before 5-3 victory

JON SHUMAKE

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The three seniors on the BCHS Lady Wildcat softball team — Taylor Dyal, Emma Gipson and Tori Richardson — have done a lot of winning during their four-year careers.

They've helped the Lady Cats to 80 wins, in fact, and are the last remaining members of the 2015 Class 5A championship team. Dyal, Gipson and Richardson also boast three straight district championships and regional final appearances.

So it was only fitting they played a major role in the program's win on Senior Night.

Baker County pulled away with a four-run fourth inning on April 16 and held off Fleming Island's seventh-inning rally to win 5-3 in its regular-season home finale.

Reagan Griffis scored the go-ahead run on a fourth-inning error by short stop Maya Littles during Richardson's at bat, which sparked the game-changing frame. Griffis was courtesy running for Taylor Crews, who hit a one-out double to center field.

Crews pitched five innings of four-hit ball with three strikeouts and one earned run.

Dyal and Gipson also hit RBI singles in the fourth inning, and Dyal crossed home plate on Sara Keves' infield run-scoring base hit.

Fleming Island cut into the lead in the seventh inning, nearly spoiling Senior Night. Tiara Peters hit a home run to left field to lead off the inning. She went 3 for 3 with two RBIs, including a game-tying single to right field in the fourth inning.

Morgan Grimm, who walked and then advanced to third base on two passed balls, also scored in the seventh inning when a throw to



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Emma Gipson, Taylor Dyal and Tori Richardson pose with flowers and gift bags on Senior Night.



Taylor Crews pitches against Fleming Island.

third base went into left field when Mackenzie Bullock



Sara Keves

bunted.

But a double play helped the Lady Cats (14-7) stop the surge. Dyal caught Lesette Fonseca's line drive and then threw the ball to Gipson at first to catch Bullock on the first two outs.

It was the second of two double plays Baker County turned in the game. Crews and Keves turned a 1-4 variety to end the second inning after the pitcher caught

a line drive and caught the runner off second base.

Kat Rhoden had two hits for the Lady Cats, and gave the team a 1-0 first-inning lead with an RBI single.

The win on Senior Night snapped a two-game losing streak, which came on consecutive nights at Columbia and at home against West Nassau.

Columbia's Dara Gaylard hit a two-run walk-off home run on April 12, lifting the Lady Tigers 3-2 over Baker County for its third walk-off loss of the season. The Lady Cats also fell 2-1 at West Nassau and 5-4 at Suwannee in early March on walk-off plays.

Keves, who went 2 for 4, tied the game at 3-all in the top of the seventh inning with a two-out single to left field, scoring Mert Gibson. The Lady Cats had runners at second and third with a chance to take the lead, but Columbia's Cris'Deona Beasley ended the threat with her fourth strikeout.

The Lady Tigers scored two runs in the fourth inning to pull ahead after Emma Gipson's RBI single gave Baker County an early lead. Griffis briefly retied the game by scoring on a dropped third strike in the fifth inning, but Lucy Giebeig's RBI double in the bottom half of the frame regained the lead for Columbia.

Baker County also fell 10-0 to visiting West Nassau on April 13.

The Lady Cats visited Creekside on April 17. They end their regular season April 19 at Oakleaf.

Baker County is scheduled to host the District 3-5A tournament beginning April 24 with a game between Bolles and Suwannee. The Lady Cats will play the winner of that game April 26 at 7 p.m. in the district championship game.

Bobcat football tryouts

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 the school's front office to be eligible for tryouts.

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.

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FORMER CATS

Flores shines as his team wins 2 out of 3

JON SHUMAKE

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Former BCHS Wildcat baseball and softball stars had mostly productive weeks despite inconsistent results from their collegiate teams.

• The No. 17 Middle Georgia State Knights' six-game winning streak was snapped on April 13 with a 7-4 loss at Blue Mountain College in the finale of a three-game Southern States Athletic Conference series. Senior first baseman Mikal Flores went 2 for 4 with a double and RBI in the loss, which dropped the Knights to 34-13 overall and 13-5 in the conference.

Flores also had a great series at the plate in the first two games, which Middle Georgia won 13-5 and 15-7 in a doubleheader on April. He combined to bat 5 of 11

with a double, four RBIs and three runs scored. Senior pitcher Jared Crews also threw six innings with eight hits, five strikeouts and four runs — two earned — in the series opener.

• The Knights began the week traveling to play the Thomas Night Hawks, featuring junior Landon Boyette. Flores had a hit and scored a run as the Knights won 6-2.

The Night Hawks (25-23, 6-15) then lost two out of three games to Warner in a Sun Conference series. Thomas won the opener 4-3 on April 13 before getting swept 9-4 and 6-3 in a doubleheader the following day.

• Senior Kylie Holton's split a pair of road doubleheaders against Belmont and Marshall. Holton combined to bat 1 for 4 with a walk on

April 13 as Morehead State (20-12, 3-5) beat Belmont 3-0 after losing 3-2 earlier in the Ohio Valley Conference doubleheader. She combined to bat 2 for 6 on April 11 with the Lady Eagles winning 3-2 before losing 3-0 at Marshall.

• Junior pitcher Zach Rafuse's South Carolina-Aiken Pacers won two out of three games at Young Harris in a Peach Belt Conference series. Rafuse pitched 5 1/3 innings with seven hits, four strikeouts and five runs — four earned — as the Pacers (26-15, 17-7) fell 5-2 on April 13. South Carolina-Aiken swept a doubleheader on April 14, 6-5 and 6-4.

• Sophomore pitcher Dylan Hall's FSCJ BlueWave have lost six straight games to fall to 14-25 overall. Hall allowed one hit in one inning

on April 14 as FSCJ lost 5-4 at Daytona State. He also threw 1 1/3 inning with two hits allowed on April 11 in a 5-4 loss at Seminole State. FSCJ also fell 4-0 on April 13 to visiting Santa Fe.

• Freshman pitcher Landen Nevill had a strikeout and a hit allowed in 1/3 inning on April 12 as his South Georgia State Hawks topped Andrew 15-6.

• The Tallahassee Community College Lady Eagles, featuring sophomores Callie Paine and Brandie Callaway, have lost 16 straight games to fall to 10-32-1. Callaway went 0 for 1 with a walk on April 12 in her team's 3-2 loss at Gulf State College. She also went 1 for 3 with a stolen base on April 11 in TCC's 7-4 home loss to Pensacola State College. Paine pitched three innings with

a strikeout and four hits and three runs allowed.

• The No. 13 Florida State Lady Seminoles, featuring freshman Madison Kennedy, won two out of three games against Boston College in an Atlantic Coast Conference series after topping Florida in a battle of two highly ranked teams.

The Lady Seminoles (36-8, 13-2) split the doubleheader at Boston College on April 13, falling 1-0 in the opener before rebounding 5-4. FSU won the final game 5-0 on April 14.

The program also won 4-1 at home over sixth-ranked Florida on April 11.

CHECK IT OUT...
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10 Lady Cats qualify for regionals

JON SHUMAKE

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Ten BCHS Lady Wildcat track and field athletes qualified for the regional meet by finishing in the top four at the District 3-2A meet on April 12 at Raines.

Rachel Mechum in the girls' discus and Hannah Walton in the girls' 100-meter hurdles both qualified individually, and the girls' 4x100 and 4x800 relay teams both also advanced to the Region 1-2A meet, which is scheduled for April 25 at Tallahassee's Florida High.

"They come out wanting it," coach Charles Ruise Sr. said Tuesday. "All through the season they put the time and effort in and it shows up in the number we're taking to regionals."

Mechum had Baker County's best outing, finishing in second-place in the discus with a throw of an even 89 feet.

Skye Miller came in ninth with a distance of 65-10.00.

Walton qualified for the regional meet with a fourth-place time of 19.09 in the 100 hurdles. Cheyenne Kinghorn (23.38) took eighth.

The girls' 4x100 relay team — Carsyn Griffis, Brooklyn Rhoden, Emily Ossmann and Rikkia Tisdale — eked out a fourth-place finish by .01 second over Yulee. The squad advanced to the Region 1-2A competition with a time of 58.12.

The 4x800 team of Rebekah Barber, Audrey Echols, Andrea Pelfrey and Miller clocked in at 13:32.39. Courtney Bernard will join the relay team as an alternate.

Baker County had top-10 showings in six other events, including a pair of events in which the competitors finished one position shy of moving on in the state series.

Ossmann ran a fifth-place time of

14.20 in the girls' 100 dash, which was just .27 seconds back of Ribault's Charity Collins' fourth-place time.

Chase Hancock also finished fifth in the boys' discus with a throw of 112-08.00.

Mechum posted another top-10 finish in the girls' shot put, taking sixth place with a throw of 25-02.00.

In the boys' shot put, Matthew McDuffie (37-09.50) finished seventh and Hancock (35-03.00) claimed 10th.

Pelfrey clocked in an eighth-place time of 3:08.38 in the girls' 800 run.

Echols crossed the finish line in 7:38.23 for 10th in the girls' 1600 run.

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Some of the 292 registered runners and walkers begin the Wildcat Warrior 5K Saturday at Heritage Park.

Photos by Jon Shumake

Tips for senior health

SAMANTHA GRENROCK

UF/IFAS COMMUNICATIONS

As we age, physical activity and diet become even more important to maintaining a healthy body and lifestyle, one UF expert says.

"As we get older, our bodies change, and we are at greater risk for developing chronic diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes," said Dr. Sharon Austin, adult programs specialist for the Family Nutrition Program from UF/IFAS. "My job is to encourage older adults to make small changes that will help them lead active, independent lives."

Adults over 65 are the fastest growing age group in the United States, and Florida has the highest percentage of adults 65 and older of any state, she said.

Everyone ages differently, and individual needs can be determined with your doctor. But in general, as we get older, we may need to pay more attention to certain aspects of our eating and exercise routines to stay healthy, she said.

• Calorie needs

As we age, our bodies typically need fewer calories because we are moving less and have less muscle mass.

"When you don't need as many calories, you want to make sure you get more bang for your buck. That means avoiding 'empty calories' and choosing foods that are going to give you the nutrients you need," she said.

• Eating from every food group

One way to ensure that you are getting all the nutrients you need is to eat a variety of foods from every food group. Take a look at ChooseMyPlate.gov to see how much of each food group to consume.

• Fiber-rich foods

"Fiber isn't just good for digestive health. It also helps lower risk for heart disease and diabetes, which are common chronic diseases in older adults," she said.

You can get your daily recommended intake of fiber from whole grains, beans, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

• Fortified foods

Look for foods fortified with vitamin B12, vitamin D and calcium. "Vitamin B12 helps keep the body's nerve and blood cells healthy, and calcium and Vitamin D help support bone health," Austin said.

• Drinking water

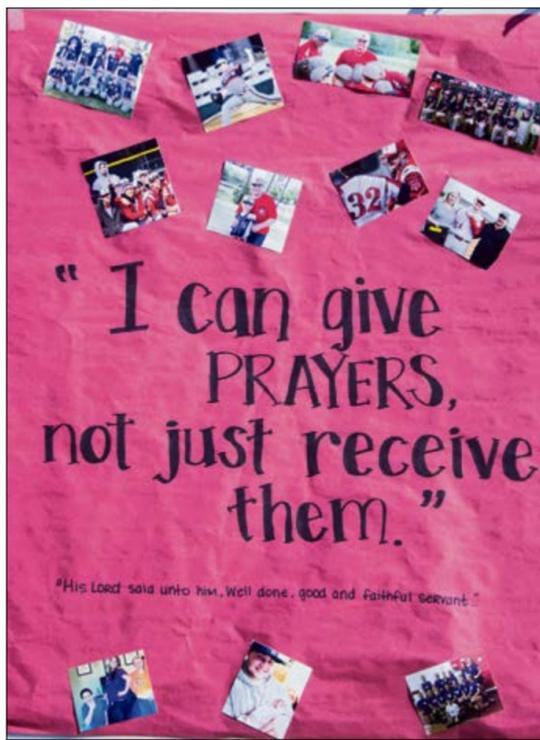
Older adults may have a decreased sense of thirst, and may more easily become dehydrated. "One way to avoid dehydration is to sip water throughout the day from a cup or container you keep nearby during your daily routines," she said.

• Exercises for mobility, balance and weight management

"When we talk about exercise for older adults, the goal is to set yourself up for physical independence. In our classes, we talk about everyday activities, such as cleaning the house or gardening, which can keep us strong and flexible, and burn calories. We also practice ways to increase balance, which can help us avoid falls and injury," Austin said.

"Next time you're sitting watching TV, get up and dance during the commercial break. It's a small step toward health, and it's fun," she said.

Overwhelming turnout for inaugural 5K



A sign hangs at Heritage Park depicting a social media post made by the late Colby Hodges.

JON SHUMAKE
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Overwhelmed.

That was the word used by both Michelle Hodges and Tracy Boggs to describe the turnout on April 14 for the inaugural Wildcat Warrior 5K at Heritage Park.

Two-hundred-and-ninety-two runners and walkers registered for the 5K, held in the memory of former BCHS Wildcat pitcher Colby Hodges who passed away in March following a battle with testicular cancer. The event, which also included food, raffles and a dunking booth, raised \$10,393.47 for the nonprofit organization, Ms. Boggs said.

"We were not expecting it to be that successful. Not at all," said Ms. Boggs, who founded the nonprofit with three former classmates — Linda Gibson, Jackie Rodgers and Robin Williams — who are friends with Colby's mother, Ms. Hodges. "We

"It's just such a blessing to be a part of all of it. I have a lot to thank God for. A lot to tell Colby when I do get to see him one day."

—Michelle Hodges



A group of people, many clad in Wildcat Warrior T-shirts, walk during the inaugural 5K.

were thinking about half that. We were amazed."

Among those on hand were Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson and the BCHS Wildcat baseball team, which helped start the 5K. Ms. Hodges said the turnout, which also included travel balls teams such as the Baker Bomberz and Baker Outlaws, the latter of which Colby helped coach, showed the impact he had on the community.

"I think it spoke volumes for the kind of person he was," she said. "... It made me a very proud mother to know that he touched lives and so many support him in that way."

And it was a former classmate of his who won the inaugural race.

Jacob Echols, who also competes for the high school's cross country team, crossed the finish line in first place with a time of 20 minutes, 20.76 seconds.

"It's good to get the com-

munity out for an event like this," he said.

The *Broadway in Baker: Greatest Hits* musical held at the high school over the weekend also raised money for Wildcat Warrior, which aims to provide community and financial support to families throughout Northeast Florida who have children battling life-threatening illnesses.

The nonprofit already has more plans on the horizon. Ms. Boggs said there are tentative plans to hold an event in June with another big event later in the summer, but the dates and locations have yet to be finalized.

Still, both she and Ms. Hodges said Colby would be proud of what Wildcat Warrior has accomplished.

"It's just such a blessing to be a part of all of it," Ms. Hodges said. "I have a lot to thank God for. A lot to tell Colby when I do get to see him one day."

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