



Coach cites bad play call Page 20



'Senior' prom night Page 11

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

89TH YEAR | VOLUME 19

AUGUST 30, 2018

AT A GLANCE

THINGS TO DO

AUGUST 30

BCHS swim tri-meet
4:30 p.m.
Baker County YMCA

The BCHS swim team opens its season in a tri-meet against Columbia and Baldwin.

SEPTEMBER 4

Tools to Quit Tobacco class

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Baker County Health Department, 480 W. Lowder St.

AHEC and the county health department will give a Tools to Quit Tobacco two-hour class, including free supplies and materials, September 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

BCMS Bobcats vs Lakeside

See page 2

MORE NEWS



Dylan sings anthem

See page 11

Go vote ...

Should there be a "truth in political advertising" law?

Yes 67%

No 23%

Undecided

10%

bakercountypress.com

3 years for crack, heroin dealing

Page 4



6 89076 48819 8

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS



School Board District 4

'Artie' Burnett	2464
Jody Anderson	2459



State Representative District 10

Chuck Brannan	9284
Marc Vann	7447



Brannan tops Vann by 10% Burnett, Anderson set for recount Friday

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The District 4 school board race ended Tuesday with a near tie after polls closed with incumbent Charlie "Artie" Burnett up by five votes over his two-time challenger Jody Anderson.

While Mr. Burnett finished with the most votes, the margin was close enough to require a machine recount tentatively set for Friday, said Supervisor of Elections Nita Crawford.

Asked how he was feeling after not winning or losing, Mr. Burnett said, "Nervous. We got a machine recounting ... You never know how

that's going to wind up."

In the other high-profile local race, Chuck Brannan had built a much more comfortable lead in the Republican primary for the District 10 state house seat before winning by 11 percentage points and 1837 votes.

Some thought he started campaigning too early. Mr. Brannan announced his intention to run for District 10, which includes Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton and part of Alachua counties, back in April, 2017.

Others encouraged him to go negative when his opponent Marc Vann attempted to paint him as a liberal due to union support of his campaign.

But by securing his spot on the November ballot Tuesday night, Mr. Brannan proved them all wrong.

"I think people appreciated we ran an above board clean race. We didn't get in the gutter with anything. We stayed on our message, which we thought was a good message and we stuck to it. We didn't want to win any other way," said Mr. Brannan of Macclenny after more than 90 percent of the precincts results were completed and he remained well in front of Mr. Vann of Lake City.

"A lot of people said nice guys finish second, but we felt like we could do the right thing and it would turn out alright. Thankfully the peo-

ple saw it the same way," he said.

Still, Mr. Brannan said he campaigned hard, knocking on nearly 4000 doors himself, not to mention the work of his supporters.

He began visiting voters in Alachua County last November and branched out from there into Suwannee, Columbia and Hamilton counties.

"Suwannee's the second largest county so we really focused on Suwannee a lot," said Mr. Brannan.

Without laying that groundwork, he said, the attack ads from the Vann campaign and elsewhere in recent weeks may have been

See page 3

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Deficit vanishes into a surplus

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

A roughly half-a-million-dollar projected deficit in the county's general fund for the coming fiscal year evaporated the afternoon of August 21 when county commissioners learned there will likely be more than \$740,000 un-

"...department heads are not spending what was budgeted ... I'd say that's good."

-Commissioner
James Croft
Baker County

spent in the current year's budget.

County finance manager Cheryl Lewis made the about-face near the end of a more than hour-long hearing called to cut anticipated general fund expenditures to balance the proposed 2018-19 budget without dipping into some \$4 million in reserves or raising taxes.

The good news came after commissioners scrutinized nine general fund

See page 2

Jailed for firing weapon under the influence

Police arrested a Macclenny man the evening of August 24 and charged him with firing a pistol in his neighborhood, including bullets that struck a neighbor's vehicle and a nearby tree.

Several deputies converged on the residence of Claud Armstrong III, 38, on James Britt Road just before 8 p.m. and he initially ignored numerous requests to get on his knees and show his hands, according to the report by Deputy Tyler Baldwin. He did so after Sgt. Chris Walker threatened to release his K-9 Blitz.

They were called to the scene by

Ned and Dorothy Lunn, who heard gunfire and saw the suspect outside his Chevrolet truck brandishing a pistol. Mr. Lunn the following day informed the sheriff's department that a bullet believed



Claud Armstrong III

fired by the neighbor struck the rear of a Toyota 4Runner belonging to his daughter Rachel.

A bullet also struck a nearby tree.

Mr. Armstrong was booked for criminal mischief, using a firearm under the influence and resisting

arrest.

Deputy Baldwin was assisted by Cpl. Marc Heath and Deputy Tim

Griffin in the arrest of Benjamin Lee, 57, of Macclenny after he called 9-1-1 from a location off SR 121 South the evening of August 20 and became unruly while being driven back to his residence.

The officer said Mr. Lee was upset, crying and breathing heavily on the roadside, saying he was coming from Union County and had been dropped off there. He was checked and cleared by a rescue team, and his behavior became more bizarre in the patrol car.

Mr. Lee refused to exit the vehicle, kicked at the officers and swung his fists outside county jail, and was forcibly subdued. He was charged with misuse of the 9-1-1 system and

with both misdemeanor and felony resisting arrest.

• Joseph York II, 39, of Sanderson was jailed the evening of August 23 for resisting arrest and disturbing the peace by standing in the roadway of SR 125 waving his shirt and walking in front of cars.

Deputy John Murphy warned the suspect about 6:30 p.m., and returned to the scene near Odis Yarbrough Road an hour and a half later amid reports by motorists and another deputy that he was back in traffic.

The deputy said Mr. York resisted behind handcuffed and attempted to walk away when told he was being arrested.

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Budget: \$77K added for GIS position

From page 1

departmental budgets. They cut \$80,000 from the \$100,000 indigent medical care budget because the county hadn't spent more than \$12,000 on such care in the last two years.

But additional spending for a critically-needed GIS (geographical information systems) position, was added to the proposed general fund spending presented by Ms. Rewis during the 3 p.m. workshop.

"This is an essential function that needs to happen this year," said county manager Kennie Downing.

It's unclear exactly how much will be budgeted and from where.

Commissioners discussed a salary of \$60,000 — a level similar to GIS positions advertised on a government jobs website — but that

would come in addition to retirement and health insurance benefits.

The budgeted sum could be closer to \$77,000, officials said.

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden recommended that range as well, saying if you pay a lower salary and train someone for the job, they could move onto another GIS position with a higher salary.

He also said the county's 9-1-1 system is not up-to-date and it needs to be addressed soon.

Commissioners agreed, including Jimmy Anderson who wants a GIS worker who can "jump in and fix the mess we got."

The other two-thirds of the estimated \$77,000 GIS position, which includes retirement and health insurance benefits, would likely come from the sheriff's of-

fice and property appraiser's office.

Clerk of Courts Stacie Harvey would later caution the board the that the level of compensation, though similar with other GIS job openings online, would be roughly the same as the county's current information technology director Nick Frilling.

Commissioner James Bennett wasn't swayed, though. He said Mr. Frilling and his employee Clint Shivers could apply for the job if they have the right skills.

Near the end of the meeting, however, Ms. Harvey commented that given Mr. Frilling's more than two decades of employment with the county, hiring a new person at the same level of salary and benefits would be "a slap in the face."

"... It doesn't feel good when that happens," she said.

Board members also appeared to prefer splitting funding for the position three ways between the county, sheriff's office and property appraiser's office, all of which use GIS systems.

Who deserves county donations?

In other moves on the proposed roughly \$10.8 million general fund, at least two commissioners, Mr. Bennett and chairman Bobby Steele, opposed a \$17,000 cut to the \$117,000 the Baker County Council on Aging requested for 2018-19.

A similar protest didn't save the reduction for the Baker County Veterans Council, however.

The group initially requested \$10,000, which was cut to \$5000 by commissioners previously despite protests from commissioner Anderson. Staff proposed a reduction to \$2500 last week.

Commissioner James Croft said he'd like to see the money fund the county veterans services office to make its director full-time. Today the director, Tony Esterling, works 30 hours per week.

Commissioner Bennett agreed that the funding should benefit all county veterans rather than one veterans organization.

"They do a lot of great work for us," he said of the veterans council, "but I remain committed that before we put it out for a private organization to manage county funds we should put it into county functions to serve those veterans."

Commissioner Cathy Rhoden concurred, saying the veterans council could seek funding for specific projects from the board in the future as needed, rather than a flat budget allocation.

"I feel like if there's a need they can come before us," she said.

Mr. Bennett went further saying any allocation to veterans council without any county oversight on how it would be spent would not be an appropriate use of county money.

He suggested budgeting \$2500 for any projects that benefit veterans rather than allocating it to the veterans council in particular.

"It sounds like we're removing the \$2500 so it would be zero. Is that what I'm hearing?" asked the chairman.

"I'm fine with that," Mr. Bennett said.

Mr. Anderson said he addressed the issue previously, but added the county doesn't require other organizations like The Arc of North Florida or Episcopal Children's Services to provide detailed information on how the county donations would be spent.

"But all of sudden we do it with the veterans?" he said. "... But it's alright. The board speaks. Jimmy listens."

Deficit evaporates

After the additions and subtractions to the proposed budget by commissioners, the general fund deficit stood at \$513,776, Ms. Rewis said.

But she had also just told the board that, "Any cash remaining at the end of the year will contribute to balancing this budget. At this time we have about \$741,000 I anticipate to roll over to help balance the budget ..."

At least one commissioner, Mr. Bennett, was confused by the U-turn on the deficit.

"Are expenditures exceeding our revenues? At the end of the day, that's what I'm trying to understand ... If our expenditures are greater than our revenues, we have not balanced our budget. That's what I'm trying to understand, what is the difference between revenues coming in and expen-

ditures ...?" asked commissioner Bennett.

"\$513,776," repeated Ms. Rewis.

She soon clarified there would likely be \$741,000 in so-called "cash forward," plus about \$115,000 the tax collector anticipates to return to the general fund next year and any reimbursements from FEMA for Hurricane Irma expenses to offset the general fund shortfall.

Some \$160,000 is expected from FEMA for the initial response after the hurricane by the sheriff's office, school district and county, but road department director Robert Fletcher said his office is still submitting paperwork to the agency for road repairs needed to fix damage from Irma.

The county had 10 projects for which "essential information" had yet to be provided to FEMA, reported the Florida Department of Emergency Manager, FEMA's sister agency at the state level, on August 20. That's down from 20 projects in June.

"Basically what this is telling us is the department heads are not spending what was budgeted for them. And I'd say that's good," commented commissioner Croft.

Other commissioners lauded department heads and county workers as well. "It shows loyalty to our county and I hope people out there see it," added Mr. Anderson.

"... We've got a budget that's balanced?" asked Mr. Bennett.

"Correct," responded the finance manager.

"That's not what I understand you say earlier," Mr. Bennett said. "That's why I'm sitting here — everybody saying how good it is and I'm saying I'm missing something."

He then turned his attention to the county's reserves, noting that at one time the reserves were up to some \$13 million.

"At some point, we need to start building that cash reserve up," said Mr. Bennett.

Should the proposed budget from last week hold steady, there should be about \$227,000 in excess cash forward to boost the roughly \$4 million reserve.

"Four million is not sufficient to maintain. If we have something happen in this county, if we have a major hurricane that wipes out a bridge or wipes out a structure and we have to front the money and wait for how long for FEMA to pay us back? We can't operate," Mr. Bennett said.

County manager Downing suggested setting aside \$100,000 per year to add \$1 million to reserves over the next decade and reach the \$5 million mark that Ms. Harvey, clerk of courts and county comptroller, believes is optimal.

Mr. Bennett pushed for a faster timetable, however.

"Do it \$200,000 over five years. There's no sense in dragging this out so long. We need to start putting a plan together to address this," he said.

The next budget meeting to approve the tentative budget and tax rate will be September 4 with final consideration two weeks later on September 18.

THINGS TO DO

From page 1

6 p.m.

Memorial Stadium, 169 W. Shuey Ave.

The BCMS Bobcat football team makes its 2018 home debut against Lakeside in a Northeast Florida Athletic Conference North Division contest.

SEPTEMBER 6

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Council on Aging senior center, 101 E. Macclenny Ave.

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is a low impact physical activity program proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. The sessions include gentle range-of-motion exercises that are suitable for every fitness level and ability for people ages 60 and up. LOCATION: Baker County Council on Aging- 101 East Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL. 32063 TIME: 1-2 p.m. DAYS: Mondays & Thursdays DATES: 9/6 - 10/29/2018 COST: FREE CONTACT: For registration and information call Northeast Florida AHEC (904) 482-0189.

BCHS swim vs Suwannee and Hilliard

4:30 p.m.

Baker County YMCA, 98 W Lowder St.

The BCHS swim team hosts Suwannee.

Correction

A headline in last week's edition incorrectly reported the City of Macclenny proposed 2018-19 millage rate as 6.3 mills rather than the actual figure, 3.6 mills, which was included in the article, which also omitted Okeefeenokee Rural Electric Cooperative as one of the power company franchisees operating in the city. It, along with FP&L and Clay Electric, are the three power utilities with service in the city.

A separate story about the same meaning regarding the city fire department's plans to cease responding to calls in areas adjacent to but outside city limits said city manager Phil Rhoden invited fire chief Buddy Dugger to comment on the issue, but it was Mayor Mark Bryant who made the request.



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The Baker County Press Weather

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Scattered T-storms
High: 93 Low: 74

Friday
Isolated T-storms
High: 92 Low: 73

Saturday
Scattered T-storms
High: 90 Low: 75

Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High: 92 Low: 73

Monday
Isolated T-storms
High: 91 Low: 72

Tuesday
Sunny
High: 95 Low: 76

Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 91 Low: 72

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Jasper 90 / 74 Callahan 93 / 75 Fernandina Beach 88 / 76
 Macclenny 93 / 74 Jacksonville 93 / 76 Atlantic Beach 89 / 77
 Watertown 90 / 74 Baldwin 94 / 74
 High Springs 92 / 75 Starke 93 / 74 St. Augustine 85 / 77

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	7:04 a.m.	7:53 p.m.
Friday	7:04 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
Saturday	7:05 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Sunday	7:05 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
Monday	7:06 a.m.	7:48 p.m.
Tuesday	7:06 a.m.	7:47 p.m.
Wednesday	7:07 a.m.	7:46 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Montic, GA	5.91 ft.	-0.13 ft.
Macclenny	7.33 ft.	-0.38 ft.

Weather History

Aug. 30, 1982 - A tropical depression brought torrential rains to portions of southern Texas. Up to 12 inches fell south of Houston and as much as 18 inches fell southeast of Austin. The tropical depression spawned 14 tornadoes in three days.

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Local results in statewide races

From page 1

more effective. The fight is not over, however. Awaiting Mr. Brannan on the November ballot are two independents in Merrilllee Malwitz Jipson and Fred S. Martin and Democrat Ronald Williams II.



Voters Matt Sawyer and Lialan Padgett after casting their ballots.

"We're half way. We'll take a day or two off and start marching toward November," said Mr. Brannan, who thanked the voters and everyone in Baker County who supported the campaign.

"I congratulate Mr. Brannan on the campaign and wish him the best of luck in the general election," Mr. Vann told *The Lake City Reporter*.

County breaks for Scott, Lawson, DeSantis, Graham

Baker County voters favored incumbent Congressman Al Lawson in the Democratic primary for the District 5 seat in the U.S. House.

He topped former Jacksonville mayor Alvin Brown by 57 percent to 43 percent here and 60 percent to 40 percent across the district stretching from Jacksonville west to Tallahassee.

At his watch party in Tallahassee, Representa-

tive Lawson addressed the crowd smiling, saying, "I appreciate the confidence that you all have placed in me. I promised you a year and a half ago that I would stand tall for you ... I've been doing that, and I promise you that I'm just getting warmed up."

Rep. Lawson will face Republican Virginia Fuller in the general election.

While the county also broke for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham with 36 percent of the local vote, she narrowly lost statewide in the primary to Tallahassee mayor Andrew Gillum by 3 percentage

points. Congressman Ron DeSantis won both Baker County and the state in his bid to be the GOP nominee for governor. He took half the vote locally and 56 percent statewide, compared to 46 percent for Adam Putnam here and 37 percent statewide.

Governor Rick Scott made easy work of his primary opponent, Rocky De La Fuente, winning the county with 93 percent and the state with 89 percent.

A handful of voters at the Macclenny precinct at First Baptist Church late Tues-

day afternoon shared their thoughts on the candidates and the primary election in general.

"I'm glad it's over," commented 73-year-old Democrat Joe Burch. "I've never heard so much mud-slinging in my life."

Republican Brian Martino said he was spurred to the polls to protect gun rights and combat calls by Mr. Gillum to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Democrat Michele Thompson said she voted for Mr. Gillum because he graduated from FAMU, where she had family ties. She favored Rep. Lawson because he was an incumbent doing a good job in her view.

Republican June Carter voted for Mr. Putnam, the state's agriculture commissioner, because she believes he shares her values on families and guns.

She said she voted against Governor Scott, however, because state worker's retirement benefits were cut, affecting her as an employee of the Florida Department of Transportation. Ms. Carter credited an endorsement by Pam Bondi for her vote in favor of Ashley Moody.

Sample more than 3 times legal limit

JON SHUMAKE

Two people were arrested for DUI during traffic stops that occurred within two hours of each other on August 25, including one person who had a breath sample that was more than

he ultimately gave two samples of .254 and .250, both more than three times the limit of .08.

Later the same night, a Gainesville man who formerly resided in Glen St. Mary was jailed just after midnight following a field sobriety test after he admitted to smoking marijuana several hours prior.

Lt. David Bryant stopped Justin Raulerson, 19, on SR 121 about 11:45 p.m. after catching him speeding at 64 mph in a 45 mph zone, according to Trooper K.A. Hilliard's report.

Lt. Bryant had contacted the trooper earlier after receiving multiple careless driving calls about a Dodge Challenger that matched the description of the one Mr. Raulerson was driving.

Lt. Bryant smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Mr. Raulerson told Trooper Hilliard he had smoked about 1.5 to two hours prior to the traffic stop and was "ready to smoke again," according to the officer's account.

The suspect's breath smelled of pot, he had bloodshot and watery eyes and had trouble maintaining his balance.

He was taken to county jail following the field sobriety test.



Daniel Lilly

three times the legal limit. Daniel Lilly, 23, of Glen St. Mary was pulled over on U.S. 90 after he was caught speeding nearly 30 mph over the speed limit about 10:30 p.m., Cpl. Marc Heath reported. The officer noticed Mr. Lilly had red, watery eyes, a flushed face and appeared to space out by looking into the distance.

Backup officer Deputy John Finley told Cpl. Heath that Mr. Lilly's breath smelled of alcohol and the suspect had admitted to drinking two shots of vodka earlier.

Mr. Lilly was taken into custody after performing poorly on a field sobriety test. After initially denying to provide a breath sample,

Breaks stick across his brother's back

A Glen St. Mary man faces one count of aggravated domestic battery on his brother during an early afternoon argument at their mother's house on Confederate Drive on August 26.

Cpl. Tony Norman said he stopped and arrested Mark Young, 41, who was driving a golf cart eastbound off U.S. 90 near Greystone Drive shortly after the incident just after 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Young is accused of striking Philip Young, also 41, of Lake City with a stick across the back that broke in half with the impact, the deputy was told.

The victim said he was attacked after admonishing his brother for cursing at their mother while they were cleaning out a garage. The initial argument was reportedly over living arrangements there by the accused.

In other arrests, Matthew Weichman, 32, was arrested on August 26 for felony child abuse by striking his

12-year-old daughter on the face after she asked to leave early from the accused's girlfriend's residence on CR 229 south of Sanderson.

Mr. Weichman and Lisa Savage, the mother of the teen and second child, had a joint custody agreement in which he got them on weekends. Their father, however, had them sporadically the past six months because he had neither a license or transportation to pick them up, Deputy Morgan McDuffie was told.

The girl asked to be returned to the mother because Mr. Weichman did not have a liquid pain reliever to ease the pain of an injured wrist, and he became angry and struck her. The girl texted photos of her face to her mother.

Sgt. Patrick McGauley arrested Rita Robbins, 58, of Glen St. Mary the late evening of August 21 for violating a protective injunction by going to the residence of

75-year-old Alfred Johnson, her boyfriend.

She claimed she went there to retrieve her medication.

Deputy John Taylor arrested Kenneth Miller, 31, of Sanderson at county jail on August 23 on a March warrant for failure to appear in court on a domestic violence charge.

Robert S. Wheeler, 51, of Sanderson was arrested August 20 for aggravated battery against a 52-year-old Sanderson woman on August 8. The victim told police he struck her in the

face and head with his hands and her pistol before dragging her by the hair through her home late that evening.

Police were called to the home by another woman whom the victim was on the phone with at the time of the attack after the victim returned home about 10 p.m. The suspect fled in the victim's truck with the 9mm handgun.

Mr. Wheeler was arrested last week back at her residence on John Farms Road.

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Baker Women's Political Network

MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Budget will cut police, boost fire expenditures

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Macclenny city commissioners accepted the proposed budget presented by staff last week after meeting one-on-one with city staff regarding the \$10.4 million spending plan for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which is an increase of roughly \$1 million thanks to a federal grant for a new fire engine.

The city is matching the grant with just \$50,000 and the budget allots close to \$145,000 in contingency funds — an increase of some \$19,000 compared to the current budget.

The proposed budget holds the line on property taxes with a millage, or property tax rate, of 3.6 mills, or \$3.60 per \$1000 of taxable property value. The rate,

however, is expected to generate about \$55,000 more revenue than the current year, or some \$850,000, due to growth in the city and rising property values.

While there are no across-the-board raises budgeted for employees, city commissioners did approve raising the county manager's salary about \$12,000 to \$92,400 earlier this year and firefighters will see seniority- or promotion-based raises.

"We feel like we have a very good budget here," said City Manager Phil Rhoden the evening of August 21 at city hall. "As usual the contingency is lower than what we'd like, but in these difficult times we're having and with the mindset that raising taxes was off the table, we've stretched it as much as we can. But we do feel confident we can op-

"...in these difficult times we're having and with the mindset that raising taxes was off the table, we've stretched it as much as we think we can."



—City Manager Phil Rhoden

erate with the budget we're presenting tonight."

During the one-on-one meetings with commissioners, he said a common theme was concern from the board members about whether enough was budgeted for water and sewer repairs.

The sewer repair budget fell about \$56,000 to \$142,000, according to city finance clerk Melissa Thompson, and the water repair budget increased about \$1000.

"There's no crystal ball on that ... We hope we do [have enough]," said Mr. Rhoden. "We have a great team together. We've built relationships on some of these emergency repairs. We've got good people coming in ... We're confident we'll get where we need to be. We are still probably 18 months out [before] you'll start seeing some major improvements. And hopefully, you'll see some improvement in the budget from having to do less emergency repairs as we bring the new lines in place ..."

Helping in those efforts are some \$1.5 million in state grants and loans, the majority of which are forgiven, some \$687,000 in federal grant money and increases in utility fees and sales from actual and projected growth for the coming fiscal

year, which starts October 1.

Those funds will go toward lift station repairs, the ongoing sewer rehabilitation effort and sludge de-watering boxes at the sewer plant.

According to city finance clerk Melissa Thompson, who reviewed each departmental budget during the commission meeting last week, about \$127,000 from FEMA reimbursements from Hurricane Irma will be earmarked to the utility fund to buy a new backhoe and vehicle and some \$150,000 in utility fund reserves will pay to complete a main wet well rehabilitation project that the city manager said cannot be delayed any longer.

As a result, the water department budget rose about \$174,000 to nearly \$1.2 million, but it also benefited from nearly \$100,000 more for water line improvements, meters and supplies for new and existing development, including in Sands Pointe, Copper Creek and the Lakes of Woodlawn project under construction now.

Mr. Rhoden, the city manager, explained a bypass is needed to isolate the two existing north city subdivisions in order to fix leaking pipes there. He said improvements are also needed in the area of River Circle and Christie Court.

The sewer department budget fell about \$162,000 to \$1.6 million, reflecting in part the completion of a portion of the wet well project this year. Last year the city budgeted \$350,000 for the project compared to \$150,000 budgeted this year. The department will also add an additional operator position for about \$40,000.

Ms. Thompson said while the sewer repair and maintenance allocation fell some \$56,000, it includes \$60,000 for sludge hauling and disposal, leaving \$142,000 for emergency repairs.

In other budget highlights:

- Some \$211,000 in "carry-over" money is expected from the current year. Most of it, \$111,000, was budgeted for a new grapple truck to collect yard debris with FEMA funds to cover the remainder of the purchase.

- Some \$35,000 was set aside to buy a new vehicle, perhaps a van for inmate laborers, and \$15,000 was allocated for new ADA-complaint playground equipment. The remainder in carry-over money will provide the \$50,000 match for the \$1 million fire engine grant.

- City attorney Frank Maloney secured a \$5000 increase in his annual fees, which includes a monthly retainer of \$3500 and \$3000 for any additional legal services not covered under the monthly retainer.

- Another \$20,000 was budgeted for outside legal services.

- Mr. Rhoden noted his fees haven't changed in nine years and the increase in annual compensation was negotiated down from \$10,000 requested by Mr. Maloney, who was absent last week.

- The fire department repair and maintenance budget increased \$42,512 for replacing radios as well as other gear and equipment.

- Information Services added \$12,500 to replace 11 outdated computers, which are five or more years old.

- The sheriff's office lost about \$116,000.

The city manager said he worked with the sheriff's office to determine the cost of having a deputy in the city limits at all times, some \$349,000 a year. He then subtracted the portion of the sheriff's office budget contributed by city taxpayers through county taxation, or roughly \$175,000 a year, to arrive at some \$174,000, which was rounded up to the budgeted figure of \$180,000.

"We feel this is a fair amount ...," said Mr. Rhoden, adding that it would be paid directly to the sheriff's office via a new contract, rather than to the county as was done in the past.

"We got tired of being a political football," he said during the ensuing discussion.

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden said he met individually with commissioners on the matter and that he understands the financial constraints of the city and county governments.

"We want to continue that open dialogue," he told commissioners, who agreed it was a fair deal for all parties.

"You're my guy," said commissioner Danny Norton, "but I've looked through the budget and this what we can do" He said it also shows city residents they're getting something additional for paying both city and county taxes.

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CIRCUIT COURT

Three years for selling crack, heroin

A Jacksonville man arrested last year for selling both cocaine and heroin to an undercover buyer was given a three-year sentence in state prison during the circuit court docket day in August 21.

Michael Smith, 50, was adjudicated guilty by Judge James Colaw in the transaction that took place near Macedonia and involved 1.5 grams of crack and \$150 worth of heroin. It was one of three prison sentences handed down that day.

The other was Cherry Padgett, 38, who admitted to violating terms of her probation ordered in May of last year for aggravated assault and two counts of domestic battery.

She was ordered to serve one year and a week.

In other non-prison sentences that day:

- Willie Albritton III, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, felony domestic battery by strangulation; 87 days in jail, three-year probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service, batterer's intervention class.

- John Bailey Jr., possession of prescription drugs and paraphernalia; eight days in jail, two-year probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.



Michael Smith

- Dustin Bookout, possession of concealed firearm, deliver, possess or sell altered firearm; two days in jail, two-year probation, community service, drug and alcohol evaluation.

- Justin Carter, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Grady Ellis, sale and possession of opium or derivative with intent to sell; 115 days in jail, two-year drug offender probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Dawn Evans, neglect of a child with great bodily harm; three-year probation, mental health and substance abuse evaluation, community service, DCF case plan.

- Timothy Hance, possession of prescription drugs, tampering with physical evidence; 120 days in jail, two-year drug offender probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Kimberly Houston, possession of prescription drugs, marijuana and paraphernalia; three days in jail, two-year drug offender probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Luc Mallett, grand theft; two-year probation, \$65 restitution, community service.

- Jessica Maryea, possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia; two days in jail, three-year probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Justin Miller, aggravated abuse/neglect of a child; 163 days in jail, one-year probation, mental health evaluation, DCF case plan.

tion, DCF case plan.

- Joseph Mullins Jr., grand theft; three-year probation, \$2000 restitution, community service.

- Thomas Suggs Jr., introduction of contraband into county jail; 131 days in jail.

- Christopher Tucker, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license (two counts each) 10 days in jail, three-year drug offender probation, obtain license, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Elizabeth Watson, grand theft; five-year probation, restitution, 100 hours community service, drug and alcohol evaluation.

- Jordan Weeks, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and paraphernalia; two days in jail, two-year drug offender probation, drug and alcohol evaluation, community service.

- Chandler Wood, carry concealed firearm, discharging firearm in public; 127 days in jail, two-year drug offender probation, community service.

- Crystal Ann Baker, neglect of a child (two counts); 64 days in jail, three-year drug offender probation, in-patient drug treatment, community service, narcotics anonymous meetings.

- Sarah Sheffield, VOP for possession of prescription drugs; 36 days in jail, reinstate probation with curfew and anger management class.

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BAKER CORRECTIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Replacing key sewage part OK'd

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Baker Correctional Development Corporation's (BCDC) board of directors last week approved the emergency replacement of a key component of the sewage system at the county jail for nearly \$21,000.

Sheriff Scotty Rhoden informed the board August 22 that an underground grinder connected to the City of Macclenny's sewer line fouled the previous weekend, backing up the system and causing sewage to erupt from manhole covers.

"We began to work on it over the weekend and had some trucks come out and pump it, then the city came out and worked with us to try to get it fixed," he explained. "We could not get it fixed so we had the manufacturer — the contractor that put the grinder in, who knows about them — had him come out and look at it. It looks like the teeth on the grinder are worn down. That's what's causing the backup and not allowing it to go through it properly."

That left the board with two options — replacement of the teeth and the motor that was damaged in the backup, estimated to cost some \$16,250, or replacement of the entire piece of equipment, projected to cost \$20,859.

Regardless, however, the turnaround time to secure the replacement or parts was estimated at two or three months, the sheriff said.

Until then, he said, the existing grinder must be flushed out twice a day and the waste separated manually for delivery to the city's treatment plant.

That will also mean an increase in overtime, he said.

The immediate cost to keep the system functioning was \$1800, including some \$1400 for a septic crew to pump out the sewage and about \$480 for the inspection by the contractor.

"The reason we have to pump that out is because it fills up where the grinder is so you can't get into the ground to work on it ...," the Sheriff Rhoden said. "If it does stop up again, we have a [temporary] bypass the city has built. We have it ready to go if the grinder does completely shut down ... But if we do that, we then have to man-

ually dip it all out, trash bag it and haul it because they won't let it go through the city part without it being grinded."

The sheriff intends to get a cost estimate on a permanent bypass installation, which he said should have been done when the facility was first built 10 years ago.

Given the 10-year life expectancy of the grinder installed a decade ago, BCDC board members opted for the full replacement.

"You may be back here this time next year when something else tore up on it," reasoned board chairman Ed Barber.

Fortunately, BCDC budgeted about \$100,000 for repairs and maintenance this year, noted the nonprofit jail owner's accountant Michael Givens. He suggested the board look ahead as well and attempt to project other repairs that may crop up in the future.

The city is willing to help the sheriff's office with additional manpower for installation of the new grinder if needed, Sheriff Rhoden said. He said his staff can remove the existing grinder and may be able to install the new one, too.

In other business last week: • Sheriff's office finance manager Jeffrey Cox reported that federal inmate counts remain high at the facility.

The year-to-date average for federal detainees, largely from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) but also the Marshals Service, was 370 prisoners. The average in July was 404 and the figure the day of the meeting was 389.

"They're keeping us full right now ... Our Marshals count is better than it's ever been," said Sheriff Rhoden.

Previously the BCDC board and its consultants identified 364 federal prisoners as the average number needed to sustain the facility under its current financing arrangement.

• But BCDC could slash its annual debt service costs by \$2 million or more with a low-interest loan from the federal government, which is pending approval from regulators in Washington, D.C., said Mr. Barber.

He expects to receive notice on the loan application within the next few weeks.

"As far as we know, so far, so good ...," Mr. Barber said.

• Mr. Givens also detailed a dispute

he's alluded to in the past with the bank trustee overseeing repayment of the current bond debt used to build and start the jail and sheriff's office complex a decade ago.

He said BCDC received two invoices for some \$24,000 in June and July related to when BCDC was forced to exchange its tax-free bond debt for higher-interest taxable bonds a year prior.

He said he requested detail on those invoices and was satisfied they were valid, but he and BCDC auditor Lyons & Lyons are disputing \$14,000 in interest paid by BCDC last February.

The bond exchange was required by the IRS, which had deemed the debt taxable, to avoid millions of dollars in potential fines and penalties. But as part of the exchange deal with bondholders, BCDC also had to pay them an additional \$700,000-plus in principal.

Mr. Givens explained that bondholders and the trustee contend the interest on the additional principal started accruing the day after the previous interest payment on February 1, 2017, while BCDC's representatives argue the additional interest began accruing the date the new bonds were issued on July 11, 2017.

"In my mind, I've kind of linked the two," said Mr. Givens. "I'm reluctant to send the \$24,000 without getting at least an answer from them that makes sense on the \$14,000 ..."

After the initial dispute was raised with the trustee by Lyons & Lyons and the trustee responded that its interest calculation was correct, Mr. Givens said he left additional phone messages and sent an email to the trustee with no response.

"We're trying to resolve this," he told the board. He expects that to happen within the next month.

Board members Jack Baker Jr. and Mr. Barber both opposed making the \$24,000 payment before getting an explanation on the smaller sum related to the bond exchange.

• The board scheduled a closed meeting for August 29 to consider a settlement offer in BCDC's ongoing litigation against its former bond counsel, Sell & Melton of Macon, GA, which issued an opinion in 2007 that the original bonds were exempt from taxation.

Pot in car at BCI

An Orange Park man faces a charge of felony possession of drug paraphernalia after a small amount of marijuana and several partially smoked joints were found in his parked vehicle at Baker Correctional in the west county.

Deputy Morgan McDuffie responded to a report by prison security the late morning of August 25 that a K-9 alerted to the presence of drugs in a 2005 Suzuki belonging to 41-year-old Eddie Harvey.

It was parked in the visitors lot where vehicles are

routinely scanned by a dog looking for contraband. The charge is a felony because it occurred on prison grounds.

In another recent drug arrest, Leslie Starling, 47, of Macclenny was charged on August 20 with violating probation for testing positive for cocaine, not completing a substance abuse course and failure to pay court costs and a supervisory fee.

She was placed on a year's probation in April for misdemeanor possession.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Economic development pact renewed

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

County commissioners last week strengthened a commitment to continue working with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in a partnership intended to lure new businesses and job opportunities to Baker County.

First, they re-designated Baker County as one of 14 in North Central Florida identified by the state as a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO) and, thus, qualified to receive state incentives for economic development.

Next, commissioners approved a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with DEO documenting the terms and conditions of the RAO, formerly known as the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) designation.

Both agenda items were recommended by Darryl Register, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and the Baker County Development Commission, both of which aim to promote economic development in the county.

"The RAO designation is designated by the governor and has to be renewed every five years," Mr. Register told the board, adding moments later that the MOA, however, was a new requirement in order to continue receiving state assistance.

"This is the first time I've ever known of this being

done," he said. "DEO sends out these agreements. The City of Macclenny got one, also, identical to this one."

Mr. Register directed the board's attention to page 3 of the agreement, which requires the county to:

- Designate a specific contact person from among county elected or appointed officials to serve as a point of contact in all matters and activities relating to the North Central RAO.
- Designate a specific person from a nonprofit organization actively engaged in economic development within the county to serve as the single point of contact to represent and provide input on all economic development matters and activities relating to the North Central RAO and process leads and referrals from Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI).

EFI is a public-private partnership between Florida's business and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for the state, working closely with a network of public and private partners.

"The commission, every year for the last several years, has designated me as the economic development contact," Mr. Register said, noting that part of his job is to communicate with Enterprise Florida concerning potential development projects in the area.

Since he already has been

filling the role defined in the agreement, he said, the board need look no further.

"I volunteer, since that's what I've been doing anyway," Mr. Register said. "That's part of what we do for Baker County — economic development."

He then cited another requirement in the MOA calling for the commission to appoint one or both of the designated representatives to:

- Participate in at least two economic development training events offered by DEO, EFI, the Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC), utility companies or other state or national economic development organizations to "help build knowledge and skills sets required to compete more effectively for job creating projects ..."
- Regularly attend the meetings of, actively participate in, and provide input to the RAO regional economic development organization.

- Represent the county at national or regional economic development marketing events or trade shows, and
- Complete a basic economic development course approved by the International Economic Development Council.

Again, Mr. Register said he already performs the listed duties and, in fact, chairs the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), which is the RAO

regional economic development organization.

He further recommended that Commissioner James Bennett be appointed to serve as the county's contact with the North Central RAO since he is a member of NFEDP.

The board unanimously approved the agreement, naming Mr. Register and Commissioner Bennett as the county's designees.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Health administrator officially appointed

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

The Baker County Commission last week confirmed the appointment of Joe Pietrangelo, a veteran state public health officer, as the new administrator of the Baker County Health Department following five years as the top health official in Bradford and Union counties.

Mr. Pietrangelo, who began his new duties immediately following the unanimous vote of support by the county commission on August 21, fills a vacancy created in 2016 by the retirement of his predecessor, Kerry Dunlavey.

Paul Myers, deputy director of the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee, appeared before commissioners last week to introduce the man he recommended for the job.

"It's been my opportunity over the last several years to recruit and identify talent in the Florida Department of Health and to recommend for appointment health officers in the state of Florida," Mr. Myers told commissioners. "So, I'm here tonight to present Mr. Joe Pietrangelo to you for your consideration."

Mr. Myers said the state surgeon general's office had appointed Mr. Pietrangelo to the position but the county commission's vote of approval was required to make it official.

"Joe is well educated, he's a public health practitioner in our state, he's held various administrative roles in county health departments



Newly-appointed health department administrator Joe Pietrangelo (center right) with his boss, Paul Myers (center left), and department employees. Photo courtesy of Joe Pietrangelo

across the state, and I'm very pleased to ask for your concurrence," Mr. Myers said.

Commissioner James Bennett offered a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner James Croft, followed by unanimous consent of the entire board.

Afterward, Commissioner Jimmy Anderson asked if anyone in the audience, which included several public health-care providers, would like to make any comment about the appointment.

Ms. Dunlavey, who ran the local health department for 25 years before her retirement two years ago, was the first to step up to the podium to express her support and admiration for her successor.

"I am very thankful that Joe applied for this position

and was selected by the department of health," Ms. Dunlavey told commissioners. "Joe and I spent many weeks together because I was his mentor. He's had experience as administrator in Union and Bradford [counties] and he's done a very fine job.

preciation to the health department for providing an essential public health service to the community, particularly meeting the needs of low-income residents.

Mr. Pietrangelo assured the board that his mission will be to continue meeting the health needs of the community and to expand programs to reach even more people in the future.

"The purpose of the Baker County health department is to meet the needs of its residents," he said. "There is no plan to make any changes that would in any way detract from the services. We'd like to augment what we do with services that address even more people and take care of even more needs out here. Our job is really to improve the quality of life of people in Baker County. That's why we're here, and I guarantee you the purpose will be honored."

At the conclusion of Mr. Pietrangelo's comments Commissioner Anderson expressed his gratitude to the health department — on a personal level and on behalf of everyone living in Baker County.

As a young boy growing up in Baker County, Mr. Anderson said, his family "didn't have a whole lot of money" but they never went without medical care.

"Everyone in the health department always treated us like we were special," he said. "And I have been in the new facility and I just praise the Lord. He blessed Baker County with the facility we have right now."

He said the local health department has earned a reputation throughout Florida for delivering superlative services, including a first-class dental clinic, doctors and nursing staff who provide primary health care, and a variety of education programs aimed at helping

people adopt healthier lifestyles.

"I travel all over Florida and Baker County health department is known all over this state," Mr. Anderson said. "Some people say if you want to see how a health department should be run go look at the Baker County health department."

Mr. Pietrangelo acknowledged the commissioner's comments and confirmed that Baker County is known for having "a flagship health department" that other communities strive to emulate.

Looking out at the faces of health care providers in the audience, Commissioner Anderson made a final comment.

"As a commissioner I just want to say to each and every one of y'all that's here and those that aren't here that I personally appreciate you because I've used you and I know what you're doing for families in this community," he said.

"I know you're probably not the best paid people out there but you've got something in your heart that most people don't have as a caregiver, and that means a lot to me."

Before the board moved on to other agenda items Ms. Dunlavey said she had "one more thing I have to say."

"Thank you so much," she said. "That is wonderful. It is a privilege to serve the people of this community. I can tell you every staff member in that health department loves this community. They truly do. And I thank every one of you for supporting the health department."

According to the Florida Department of Health website, Mr. Pietrangelo became health administrator in Bradford and Union counties in 2013 following six years as the department's operations manager in the two counties.

He previously was responsible for the oversight and management of several programs, including Healthy Start, Healthy Communities/Healthy People, abstinence education and tobacco prevention classes; served as a chronic disease specialist and helped prepare grant proposals to fund essential services and activities; and administered Miami-Dade County's STD clinics and a clinic for the Comprehensive AIDS Program with the University of Miami's Project Outreach.

A former social worker with a master's degree from Rutgers University, Mr. Pietrangelo also completed academic course work in the Human Services Studies Doctoral Program at Cornell University, according to the health department website.

"I travel all over Florida and Baker County health department is known all over this state. Some people say if you want to see how a health department should be run go look at the Baker County health department."

—Commissioner Jimmy Anderson

"I think that he will serve you well and I've got his back. If he needs my help in any way he's got my phone number and I'll be glad to help."

When she asked if commissioners had any questions or comments for her, board chair Bobby Steele expressed his thanks to Ms. Dunlavey for exceptional leadership of the health department for so many years and said: "Joe's got some big shoes to fill."

That prompted an immediate response from Mr. Pietrangelo in the audience: "Amen!"

During the next several minutes various commissioners expressed ap-

BCSO serves several warrants

Police served several warrants for violation of probation and failing to appear in court recently.

• Brett A. Johnson, 49 and reportedly homeless, was arrested August 23 for failing to appear in court for arraignment on two counts of misdemeanor theft and one count of battery after the state attorney's office filed those charges in July.

Mr. Johnson allegedly punched and kicked victim Robert Crawford, 63, who the suspect had been living with for about a week, on June 30 after the men consumed a large amount of alcohol.

Mr. Crawford reportedly suffered two possibly broken ribs and said Mr. Johnson stole his phone, wallet with credit cards and identification, and beer.

• Kenneth A. Miller, 31, of Sanderson was also jailed August 23 for missing his arraignment date on charges of domestic battery against his girlfriend while she was holding her 15-month-old daughter back in January. The state attorney's office filed the misdemeanor count in February.

• Teresa M. Wilkinson, 35, of Jacksonville was arrested August 24 for once again failing to appear for a shoplifting case from March, 2017 at Walmart. It's the second time she's been arrested for not keeping a court date in the case. She was released on her own recognizance in Duval County last August, court records show.

• Joceyln A. Cunningham, 45, of Macclenny was arrested the same day for not appearing in court on counts of leaving the scene of an accident without leaving any information in early June of this year. Her latest failure to appear warrant was issued August 15, court records indicate.

• Stacy R. Padgett, 38, of Macclenny was arrested two days earlier for failing to appear on a violation of probation count stemming from a driving on a suspended license case from April of last year. She was sentenced to six months probation in July, 2017 and was violated less than three months later. Court records show she was arrested last February for violating terms of her probation and missed court in March.

• John E. Bailey, 55, of Jacksonville was arrested August 22 for violating terms of his sex offender probation. In 2003 he was sentenced to 15 years in prison followed by five years on probation for lewd and lascivious assault on a child under 16, according to court records. He was violated August 17.

• Marco V. Terrell, 43, of Glen St. Mary was arrested August 19 for violating terms of his drug offender probation. He was arrested last February for drug possession. It was his second arrest for violation of probation since June.

Patient arrested for felony battery

A patient at Northeast Florida State Hospital was arrested on August 22 for felony battery on an employee.

Deputy Mitchell Wight was summoned to the hospital campus south of Macclenny by NEFSH security to investigate the incident that occurred the previous evening.

Employee Melissa Gray said she was approached by patient Asha Jabari, 48, at a nurse's station and asked to retrieve a Bible and legal paperwork from a storage room.

She did so and said when she brought them to the patient's room, Ms. Jabari slammed her against a shelf, grabbed her by the buttocks and licked her on the face. Once freed, Ms. Gray said she was grabbed a second time around the waist and

the accused attempted to kiss her.

The deputy said Ms. Jabari refused to give a statement.

In other recent reports, probation officer Randall DeShong said Tyler Freeman, 27, of Glen St. Mary was arrested earlier in August for violating terms of his sex offender probation.

The officer said he confronted the accused at a gas station in Brookier, FL past his 10 p.m. curfew, and that he had been drinking and involved in a minor accident. Terms of his probation ban him from intake of alcohol.

• Detective Jake Betros arrested Ty Canaday, 49, of Macclenny at his residence off SR 121 North on August 23. He was wanted in Duval County for sexual battery and false imprisonment.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

\$520K to fund paving projects

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Ordinarily, budget transfers are routinely passed by the county commission with little debate. But a request to transfer gas tax revenue to the road department budget for paving projects created a bit of a stir before finally gaining approval last week.

On August 21, Finance Director Cheryl Rewis submitted a request to amend the current budget, which ends September 30, by transferring \$520,000 from a gas tax revenue account to the road department budget for county paving projects.

"It will take our budget from \$41,647,463 to \$4,216,746," Ms. Rewis told commissioners.

"Just for clarity, these are funds coming from restricted funds, which is gas tax funds, and they cannot be used for anything else?" asked Commissioner James Bennett.

"Correct," Ms. Rewis replied.

"And we're doing this because this was not planned in our budget?" the commissioner asked.

"Correct," she said.

When he asked how much the road projects totaled, Ms. Rewis pointed to an agenda attachment listing 59 road paving projects totaling \$4.1 million.

"What is the \$520,000 going for? That's what I'm trying to see," Commissioner Bennett said.

Ms. Rewis said she didn't know the answer and since county road superintendent Robert Fletcher was unavailable to answer questions she handed off the question to County Manager Kennie Downing.

Before Mrs. Downing could speak Commissioner Bennett said that evidently "something's already been funded and we're supplementing it with \$520,000. I know we're approving money, but what is it going for?"

Mrs. Downing reminded the commissioner of the board's decision in January to allocate \$520,000 a year in gas tax money to complete a list of 59 road paving projects over the next eight

years.

"In terms of which roads will be done," she said, road superintendent Robert Fletcher "will determine that but he cannot exceed \$520,000 per year until all the projects are completed."

The county manager's explanation didn't seem to make the budget transfer request any clearer for Commissioner Bennett.

"Well, what is clear," he said, "is that we're not going to spend \$520,000 over the next month. So, why are we doing a budget amendment in the current year for \$520,000 when we know we're not going to use that much (before September 30)?"

After a pause, Ms. Rewis said: "We don't know the exact amount. He (Mr. Fletcher) has said he started working on roads but he does not know the exact amount. So what we're doing is going off the plan that was given in January. We're starting to pay on these roads already, so we're just asking for that lump sum to be transferred."

Commissioner Bennett once again objected to the transfer request so close to the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year before the new budget year begins October 1.

"I have a concern with being asked to approve a \$520,000 funds transfer when we only have six weeks left in the fiscal year," he said. "It's extremely unlikely that we're going to spend half a million dollars and we haven't gone after quotes (bids). Or, I don't know that we have."

When Mrs. Downing said bids have been awarded for four road projects, Commissioner Bennett was surprised.

"We awarded the bids before we had money in the budget?" he asked.

"We had money in the budget. It just wasn't allocated correctly, which is why we're trying to correct it," the county manager said. "The money is there, it's just sitting in the (restricted gas tax) account. We're just making sure we don't spend it for something else."

Commissioner Bennett then said if the money "is

"We had money in the budget. It just wasn't allocated correctly, which is why we're trying to correct it."



-County manager Kennie Downing

there, in the budget, we wouldn't be doing a budget amendment."

"The money may be in the bank account but it wasn't budgeted," he said. "I'm simply asking, are we going to spend \$520,000 in the next six weeks for these projects?"

Later in the meeting Mr. Fletcher arrived and stated that all road paving projects included in the current budget had been completed, and that if the \$520,000 is transferred to his department it would remain in that budget as a line item specifically allocated for road paving projects on the list in the coming year.

At last, Commissioner Bennett was satisfied and offered a motion to approve the budget amendment, but not before asking Mr. Fletcher to provide the board with a list of all road projects completed thus far as well as a list of those remaining to be paved and the order in which they will be paved.

In other business the board:

- Adopted a resolution of support for the seven-county Northeast Florida Regional Council as a multi-purpose regional entity which helps shape planning policies in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources and transportation throughout the region.

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson, president of the regional council, asked for the resolution to be placed on the agenda to show the county's continued support for the umbrella agency in light of Clay County's decision to pull out of the regional council membership last year.

"I wanted to do every-

thing in my power to get Clay County back involved with the seven counties in the regional council," he said. "I want to send out a copy of the resolution to each county and each municipality (26) in the counties."

- Approved an application for a \$50,000 grant from PetSmart Charities for a new project by the county's animal control department to fund a "much needed spay/neuter program locally."

"While this grant application is still in preliminary stages, staff is excited about the potential to offer this program to our community," the county manager said in a letter requesting the board's approval.

"According to spay/neuter statistics, around 2.7 million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the United States simply because they do not have homes. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying and neutering."

The proposed grant, Mrs. Downing said, would greatly help increase the efforts to reduce the number of animals euthanized in Baker County every year and "offer our citizens an opportunity they may not be able to afford at this time."

- Awarded a \$14,950 contract to George P. Coyle & Sons, Inc., a Jacksonville construction company that submitted the sole bid to install aluminum awnings at the county animal control shelter to provide shade for dogs and visitors to the kennels.

The project was funded by a \$15,560 PetSmart Charities grant.

"We'll finally get some shade out there," said Commissioner Bobby Steele, board chair.

Grand theft arrest at Walmart; two trespassing arrests

JON SHUMAKE

A Glen St. Mary woman was arrested the evening of August 26 after she was caught stealing \$310 worth of items from the Macclenny Walmart.

The store's security employee told police Samantha Bryan, 30, twice selected items throughout the store before paying for some but not all of them at self-checkout and then exiting the store.

After a second round of shoplifting and passing the last point of sale at the grocery exit, the suspect was stopped by security and escorted to the employee's office, Deputy Tyler Baldwin reported.

Nearly \$140 in miscellaneous toiletries, \$97.44 worth of clothing, \$15.43 in batteries, a fuel cap valued at \$14.88 and \$45.12 in other miscellaneous items were stolen and recovered.

Police also made two arrests for trespassing during the week.

- Teresa Thomas, 49, was taken into custody in the early morning hours of August 26 after she refused to leave her husband's residence following about six commands from police to do so.

She was additionally charged with resisting without violence after flailing her hands while Cpl. Marc Heath tried to handcuff her, according to Deputy Jared Sharman. He placed her on the ground to gain compliance and she shouted obscenities while being placed in the back of the deputy's patrol car.

Police responded to the North Lowder Street residence about 3:15 a.m. and met with Ms. Thomas, who said her husband wouldn't let her inside. James Thomas, 45, said he wanted the suspect to leave due to them being separated for two months and the residence belonging to someone else.

- A 15-year-old boy was jailed the night of August 24 after ignoring several verbal commands from Cpl. Michael Lagle to leave the fence line surrounding the front entrance of Memorial Stadium where the teen was cussing and yelling at someone of the other side of the fence.

Habitual offender jailed after leaving a crash site

JON SHUMAKE

An habitual traffic offender with an active warrant out of Columbia County was arrested the night of August 25 on multiple charges after he left the scene of a crash because he didn't have a valid license.

Marleon Farmer, 30, of Macclenny was taken into custody for leaving the scene of a crash and driving with a suspended or revoked license as a habitual offender, which carries a felony charge, after he was located at a South Boulevard residence.

The damage to the Toyota Camry he admitted driving was consistent with a rear end collision Trooper C.C. Williams had earlier responded to on Lowder Street, and had white transfer paint from the Chevrolet Cobalt also involved in the crash.

The trooper learned Mr. Farmer had six prior driving on a suspended or revoked license charges as well as an active warrant for petit theft. The suspect admitted he left the scene because he did not have a license, according to the trooper's report.

Patrolman Williams initially responded to the crash scene on Lowder Street just west of South Ninth Street. The Cobalt had heavy front end damage and gray transfer paint on its front. Driver Jagger Bledsoe said he was traveling eastbound when the Camry stopped in front of him. He said he tried to

stop his vehicle but it slid into the rear of the Camry.

After the collision, the Camry turned left onto South Ninth Street and traveled northbound away from the scene. Deputies located the vehicle driven by Mr. Farmer several blocks from the crash site before Sgt. K.M. Boatright confirmed the description of the vehicle, according to authorities.

In another incident, a Brevard County man on felony probation was jailed the night of August 24 after he gave police false information about his identity during a traffic stop.

Qwentez Keels, 23, admitted to initially using his brother's name and date of birth during a traffic stop on I-10 about 8 p.m. He was the passenger in a vehicle that was stopped because the driver was speeding at 93 mph eastbound on the interstate at the U.S. 90 overpass.

Sgt. Boatright smelled both raw and burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle, and both the driver and Mr. Keels said it was smoked a few minutes earlier and none was left. A quick search did not locate any narcotics.

Mr. Keels was arrested for felony impersonation and misdemeanor resisting without violence. The false information that resulted in his arrest was a violation of his probation, which had a "no arrest" condition, the sergeant reported.

BAKER COUNTY CLERK OFFICE NOTICE OF ACTION

The Clerk of Courts provides public notice of the intent to include the following director position in the Florida Retirement System's Senior Management Service Class effective October 1, 2018, Assistant Clerk of Court. Additional information may be obtained by writing to the Clerk of Court, Attn: Stacie Harvey, 339 E. Macclenny, FL 32063.

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OPINION

'Hit pieces' effective on uninformed

Impressions

Jim McGauley

It's something one puts to the back of one's mind except for the weeks leading up to an election.

That's when your mailbox fills with literature espousing the attributes of a candidate assuring you he or she is for (in this neck of the woods) conservative government, family values, the Second Amendment and so on. Similar to the old "stump speech" of days gone by, the candidates put their best face forward hoping to lure voters, except it's done via slick, well-produced mailings. Same with TV and newspapers.

All this is fine. Put on your best face.

Then as election day nears, things change. In some races the message becomes negative, and often misleading.

Such was the case recently when Chuck Brannan, a favorite-son candidate for state representative who resides in Macclenny, took a broadside from a mailing of dubious origins that attempted to portray him as a bosom buddy of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Brannan, thanks to the miracle of Photoshop, was depicted with Mr. Obama's arm around his shoulder. I confess, my reaction was laughter.

There may be candidates in north Florida who strive to capitalize on their chummy relationship with the former president and would-be president Hilliary

Clinton, but Mr. Brannan ain't one of them.

This misrepresentation didn't fool anyone in Baker County, I surmise, but could have had an effect in other counties where Chuck Brannan is less well-known (this column was written before the election results were known).

"Hit piece" mailings, newspaper ads and TV commercials tend to pop up in the final weeks before election day, obviously to

limit the time the target of an attack has for damage control.

Well-informed voters aren't swayed generally, but the great number of voters who pay attention only at election time nears could, and in many cases, can be.

"Hit pieces" are the equivalent of punching below the belt in boxing or clipping in football, but they still pop up. And they work.

The reason is obvious: they can have a positive ef-

fect in a close election where the "non-political" voters are the margin of victory.

Which brings us all back to the time-honored axiom underpinning a representative republic. It will function, and the electorate can be trusted to make the correct decisions, only when voters remain well-informed.

Therein lies the disturbing trend in recent decades. Increasing numbers of eligible voters are woefully

ill-informed. To illustrate, this week a survey found that half of the respondents can't name one member of the Supreme Court.

It's a simple correlation: the more citizens fail to inform themselves about our governmental institutions and those who seek to represent us, the more "late season hit-pieces" are effective.

Simple as that.



Last week's story about false advertising in the District 10 state house GOP primary race raised an important question at the heart of our democracy and the U.S. Constitution.

While there are laws protecting consumers from false consumer advertising, including legal remedies by the Federal Trade Commission to stop such ads and compensate consumers defrauded by misleading or untruthful brand ads, there are no "truth in political advertising" laws.

Why is that? It essentially boils down to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which protects political speech. Courts have come down on both sides of the issues, both striking down truth in political advertising laws, fearing that the government could attempt to quell speech critical to the government using such laws.

On the other hand, in the words of a law professor named William P. Marshall in 2004, "unchecked excesses in campaign speech can threaten the legitimacy and credibility of the political system."

Given this conflict, we turned to readers last week, asking where they come down on this constitutional conundrum. Should we have truth in political advertising laws? Or should voters be left to decide?

Jason Randall: If that were the case, there would be no political ads. If a law says the word Patriot in the title, it isn't patriotic. If a congressman calls himself a Constitutionalist, he or she will avoid the constitution to make money from donors. That being said, I'd rather have someone using an unsecure email as President than someone with an insecure personality.

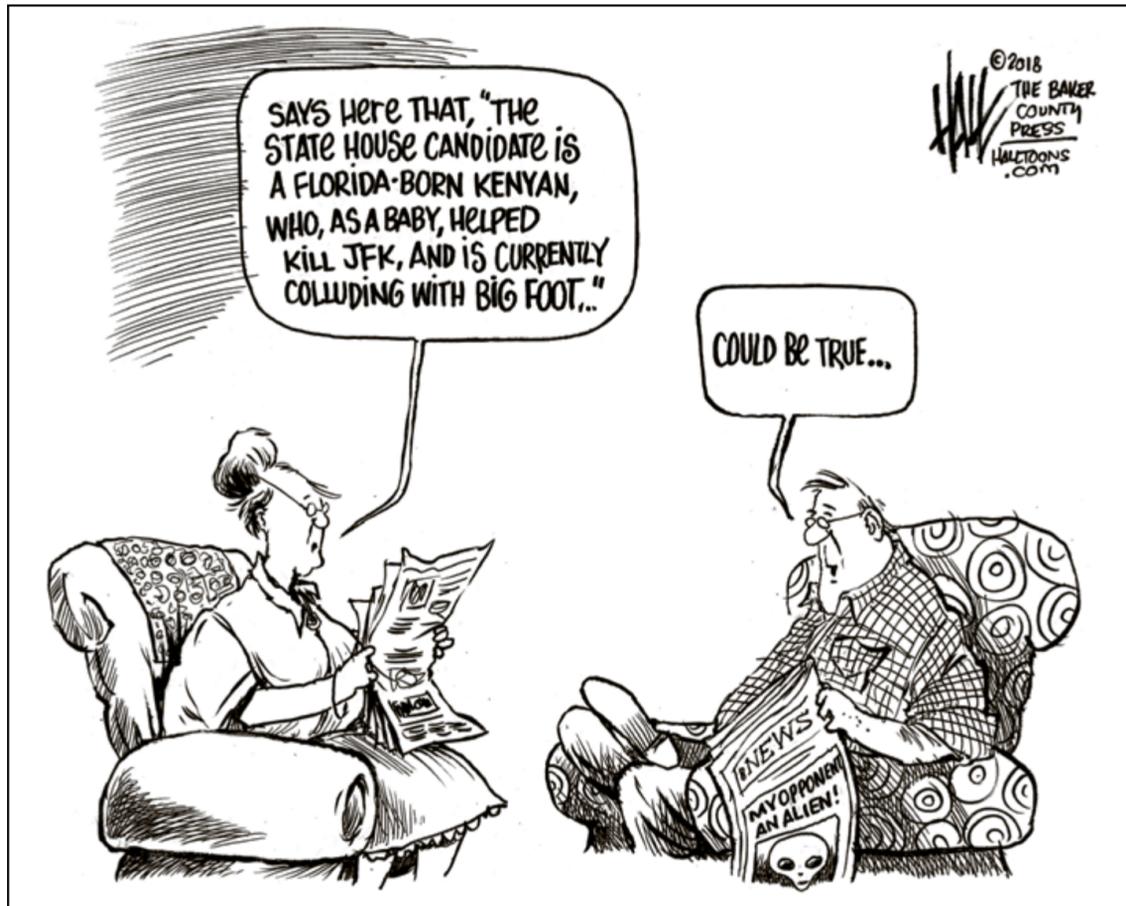
Nick Apromollo: Truth in political ads would render 99% of political ads as false.

Kimberly Walker-Laidman: If they did that nobody would have any ads!

Gary O'Neil: And I have a bridge I want to sell you.

Cathy Mendolera: "Truth in Politics" has long been classified as the ultimate oxymoron! But seriously, defamation of character should be illegal in any arena. One major advantage to a specific law being passed: you'd have the shortest political speeches in US history!

Alexander Robertson: Then again the truth really hurts.



Busy weekend for Gerard family

It was quite a busy weekend down on my end of the road. Son Spencer came home on Friday afternoon to do the color commentary for the Wildcats game with Press sports editor Jon Shumake.

That was a lot of fun for him. He's always wanted to do color commentary, in fact I wouldn't be surprised if that isn't a secret dream career.

It's not as easy as it seems. I did it once or twice with Bobby Hart and was terrible at it. Kelley says I remember it as being worse than it actually was, but I'm not so sure about that.

Bobby and I covered the Wildcats' away game to Lee one year in "the Backyard," Lee's stadium. It is well-named, because the stadium is literally in the school's backyard.

The stadium didn't have a press box, or if they did it wasn't for the visiting team's use, so Bobby and I set up in an English classroom overlooking the field. It was a long way from the field and I have lousy eyesight, so I struggled to pick up player numbers — one of my main jobs.

Bobby, who had been calling the games for years, was an old hand and helped me along as best as he could with questions and comments. That was helpful, because you don't want dead air and that was another one of my jobs, being chatty enough that there was no dead air.

Anyone who knows me knows I am not chatty.

Small talk is not my forte and I am usually the cause of dead air rather than its remedy. But somehow I managed to get through it. I recall that they weren't quick to ask me back, though.

By the end of the first quarter last week, Spencer was clicking right along, despite the fact that he and Jon had to pass a cell phone back and forth because of technical problems. I was proud of him and he really enjoyed himself.

On Saturday afternoon we were off to the Jaguars game where son Dylan sang the National Anthem. That is always a nerve-racking proposition. The Anthem is a hard song for anyone to sing. It ranges from very low to very high and every Anthem singer from Frances Scott Key on has worried about flubbing the lyrics.

We had the privilege of being down on the field while he sang. It was an amazing experience.

When we got there we parked in the loading dock by Daily's Place. Because you're in the stadium proper, your car is examined by bomb-sniffing dogs. They sniff around your car and that's that.

Unless you're Spencer. The dog took a liking to Spencer's big F-150. As soon as Spencer opened the

door, the dog hopped in the truck and sat there grinning doggy-style like he wanted Spencer to take him for a ride. He had to be pulled out of the truck to do his job. He sniffed around the

truck and jumped back in the back seat and lay down for a nap. The way we figured it was his owner must have the same truck.

We waited in the bowels of the stadium in the green room. They fed us and at 4:30 p.m. they took us out on the field so Dylan could practice. Some of the Falcons wide receivers were doing some warm-ups and I got a picture with former Jags wide receiver Ernest Wilford, who is now on the JSO.

One of the issues for singers is the echo in the stadium, which can mean that the singer doesn't hear what he or she just sang for several seconds. Dylan was worried about that, but they fitted him with ear buds so he could hear himself.

Then we waited. At 6:30 we were escorted down on the field and it was a very different sight. Both teams were warming up and there was a lot of activity. The state championship Raines football team was introduced and got a lot of love from the Jaguar players, particularly Calais Campbell and Myles Jack, who came over and shook hands.

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

BAKER SOCIALIZING



Liked by mckenzie_shape, coll_crews and 284 others
sherieraulerson Psp Rally's are one of my favorite things ever! We have the best children on the planet!



Liked by brooke.monds, sherieraulerson and 9 others
bakercpk @Mrs. Kosakowski's kindergarten class has been practicing writing their numbers 1-4. #MathMatters #BakerPKK #KindergartenRocks

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PREVENTION COALITION

Mapping gaps in fight against drug use

JOEL ADDINGTON
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Last week the Baker County Prevention Coalition conducted a community mapping exercise with about a dozen local partners during the coalition's monthly meeting at the sheriff's office.

The brain-storming session attempted to identify gaps in the community's fight against substance abuse, mainly among the county's youth population, by identifying community stakeholders, assets and the largest substance abuse issues present in Baker County.

"The purpose of community mapping is to identify what's going on in our community — where do we see problems, where do we see good things, where we can grow ...," said coalition executive director Lea Rhoden August 23 before prompting the participants to call out various constituencies present here, like students, churches, young professionals and the elderly.

They overlapped with many of the assets present here, including local narcotics and alcoholics anonymous groups, civic clubs, law enforcement, schools and advocates like County Judge Joey Williams and county commissioner Cathy Rhoden, who founded a county task force to combat opioid abuse.



Prevention Coalition partners brainstorm during a community mapping exercise last week.

Photos by Joel Addington



Emily Phillips writes down community assets.

In terms of the major substance abuse problems among youths, participants pointed to use of smokeless tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and vaping.

Emma Phillips of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, who works in opioid prevention, said vaping liquids can mimic

some of the effects of traditional marijuana, even though they don't include the specific component of cannabis, THC, that gets users high.

"It still has some of the cannabinoids which induce relaxation and an appetite stimulant," she said. "... It will not get you stoned, allegedly. I would argue that it does."

The link to cannabis, the legalization of medical marijuana in Florida and how vaping is marketed as a safer alternative to traditional smoking, all concern Ms. Rhoden, in addition to the lack of research on the long-term health impacts of vaping.

She said the Federal Drug Administration was set to begin regulating vaping in 2019 but now the agency is not expected to do so until 2022.

"It raises concerns about what you're putting in your body," she told the group.

"And the kids think, because of what society is putting out there, these are OK. Medical marijuana is OK. Vaping is OK. It's helping people quit smoking. That's where our job is to educate the kids that these are still chemicals and you're hurting yourself."

She suggested the coalition may offer responsible vendor training for vaping retailers similar to the training the coalition has done with restaurant and store employees who sell or serve alcohol.

Vaping devices and liquids are also sold online, however.

"It's really not that hard if you have your parents ID in front of you," Lea Rhoden said of her experience on vaping product websites. "Kids in our high school have these, whether they are buying them themselves or parents are buying them ..."

In other news from the monthly meeting:

- The coalition's weekly trivia nights at Calendar's will now be held monthly and include a round of questions about alcohol and tobacco.

This month's trivia night was Tuesday but check the coalition's Facebook page for upcoming dates.

- The backpack giveaway this month at Heritage Park was a huge success, Lea Rhoden said, giving out

some 700 backpacks at the event and at summer meal sites after the event.

Next year, she said, the coalition and other local nonprofit groups hope to give away 1000 backpacks and hold the event indoors at the fairgrounds.

- The coalition's next "Hidden in Plain Sight" training will be August 30 at 6 p.m. at the middle school. A mock teen bedroom will be set up on the auditorium's stage with various signs of drug, tobacco and alcohol use that parents can learn about.

Youths are welcome but they'll be sequestered away from the stage with games and activities. Dinner will be provided.



Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000
Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 160

Some signs to look for:
No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months
No babbling by 12 months
No words by 16 months

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org

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Recommended precautions for high-risk flooding zones

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Suwannee River Water Management District warned this week of record-breaking high aquifer levels, signaling a high risk for flooding within the district, which encompasses a portion of the southwestern county.

"In some areas of the district we continue to see flooding that began in early July, which is very unusual especially since there have been no tropical systems yet," said Fay Baird, senior hydrologist for the District, in a press release this week. "In many places the Floridan Aquifer is more saturated than it has been for numerous years."

While most of Baker County saw a few inches less of rainfall on average in August compared to July, a major storm could push water levels back to flood stage across the county. As such, here are some precautions recommended the Suwannee management district:

- Make a plan for an alternate exit route in the event your main route is flooded.
- Identify a location to move low-lying valuables and animals to higher ground.
- Clear drainage ways and ditches of fallen

trees or debris.

- Become familiar with past flood water levels in your area so you have a reference point.

"If a significant weather system occurs over our already-wet conditions, we will very likely see localized flooding in many areas across the district," said Ms. Baird.

According to the St. Johns River Water Management District, which covers most of Baker County, despite patchy rainfall in July, annual totals remain above average across the district.

The St. Johns management district recommends taking advantage of the rainfall for lawn irrigation.

"The wet weather may continue, as forecasts state a 70 percent chance of El Niño conditions developing during the winter, potentially increasing the chances of a wet winter," reads it's monthly press release on rainfall.

"Individuals who irrigate their lawns are encouraged to take advantage of the summer rains and 'watch the weather, wait to water.' When a lawn has received enough water from rainfall, the district encourages turning off irrigation systems and then turning it back on only when needed."

COUNTY COURT

Sentences from August 22

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on August 22:

- Rodney Keith Brooks, driving on suspended license (DWLS), no vehicle registration, non-assigned license tag; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Levi Cleveland, harassing communications, stalking; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Stephen Curry, DUI (2nd or 3rd conviction); 12-month probation, 50 hours community service GBB (Give Back to Baker (GBB) community service, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol, participate in MADD events, impact statement.
- Andrea Doss, battery, retail theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Jasmine Durkovic, DWLS; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Rachel Econom, failure to report damage to un-

attended vehicle; 60 days with monitor, six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings, GBB, no alcohol, impact statement.

- David Eddy, DWLS from another state; six-month probation, license school, obtain license.
- Markelya Ford, no valid driver's license; charge dropped.
- Sheila Griffis, petty theft; 53 days in jail.
- David Harter, DUI (2nd offense); 12-month probation, 50 hours community service, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol, MADD events, impact statement, six-month license suspension.
- Matthew Light, violation of domestic violence injunction (two counts); charge dropped.
- Luc Mallett, petty theft, false statement to obtain credit or property; six-month probation, GBB, attend group addiction meetings, \$150 fine, \$62.34 restitution.

- Kentivas McFadden, no valid driver's license; court costs.

- Darryl Wayne Norman Jr., game law violation, trespass, loitering/prowling; 180 days in jail, GBB, attend group addiction meetings, no weapons, \$500 fine.
- Melissa O. O'Neil, DWLS, DUI; 54 days in jail.
- James Earl Reed Jr., petty theft, false statement to obtain credit or property; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Franklin Thornton, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Clayton Whitehead, failure to report damage to unattended vehicle; ; six-month probation, \$1010 restitution.
- James Whittaker, DWLS, possession of DWLS, possession of drug paraphernalia; 49 days in jail.

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Please be advised that
Macclenny City Hall will be closed Monday, September 3
in observance of Labor Day.

We will re-open for business
Tuesday, September 4 at 8:30 am

City of Macclenny

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners has tentatively adopted a budget for **2018-2019**.

A public hearing to make a **TENTATIVE DECISION** on the budget **AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE** will be held on:

September 4, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Baker County Administration Building
55 North Third Street
Macclenny, FL 32063

OBITUARIES

'Buddy' Armstrong of Glen St. Mary

Claud "Buddy" James Armstrong II, 61, of Glen St. Mary passed away August 20, 2018 at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville. He was born March 15, 1957 in Miami, Florida to the late Claud James Armstrong and Virginia Ruth Armstrong. Claud honorably served in the United States Air Force, then later became a lead technician with Florida Power and Light. He retired after 40 faithful years of service. In his early years Claud was a great baseball player he was also a motorcycle enthusiast. He was a member of the Patriots of America Motorcycle Club. Claud was a God-fearing man who loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.



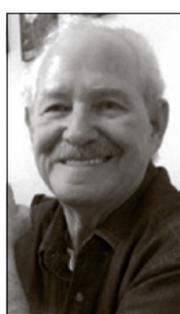
Claud Armstrong

Mr. Armstrong is survived by the love of his life, Angela Denise Armstrong and son Claud "James" Armstrong III of Glen St. Mary; grandchildren Madison Lynn Armstrong, Trinity Lee Armstrong, Trenton James Armstrong, Taven Anthony Armstrong and Whitley Ellise Armstrong.

A celebration of Claud's life was held on Saturday, August 25 at 5 p.m. in the chapel of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny.

Frank Bosley, 72, onetime resident

Frank A. Bosley, 72, of Homosassa, FL passed away Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at Oak Hill Hospital in Spring Hill, FL. Mr. Bosley was born in Akron, OH and lived many places, including Warren, MI and Baker County before moving to Homosassa two years ago. Mr. Bosley retired from the United States Army as an SFC after 22 years of service. He completed multiple tours of duty including serving in Thailand, Korea, Vietnam and Germany. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Wurzburg, Germany, a member of the American Legion, VFW, and The Patriot Guard Riders. Mr. Bosley loved his family, fishing, camping and his dog Yoda.



Frank Bosley

He was preceded in death by his wife and love of his life, Sharon Krause Bosley; his son Frank Bosley; parents Frank Hacker Bosley and Toddy West Heater; brother James Walter Ash. Mr. Bosley is survived by sons Thomas Bosley of Homosassa and James Bosley of Macclenny; sister Toddy Helen Butcher of West Virginia; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to honor the life of Mr. Bosley will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, August 31 in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Funeral Friday for Blair Harrison

Inman "Blair" Harrison Jr., of Lake Butler passed away on August 27, 2018 with his family by his side. Blair was born on December 3, 1944 to the late Inman and Estelle Spires Harrison and lived most of his life in Lake Butler. He was preceded in death by his sister Zona Sue Halle, his grandson Colby Blair Harrison and his mother-in-law Helen Austin. He enjoyed working with his family at a young age on their dairy farm and he had a love for horses and enjoyed raising them in his later years. Blair was loved by many and nothing meant more to him than being surrounded by his family and friends. There was nowhere he went that he didn't have a friend, and he never met a stranger.



Inman Harrison

Mr. Harrison is survived by his wife of 43 years, Barbara Harrison; daughters Robyn (Preston) Huntley and Susan (Rick) Brown of Lake Butler; brothers Charles Harrison, Joe (Tracy) Harrison and John (Janet) Harrison, all of Lake Butler; grandchildren Cameron Bailey of Sanford, FL, Caitlyn (Justin) DeNunzio, Brandon Combs and Clay Halle of Lake Butler, Kendall Woodland of Keystone Heights and Kristin Woodland of Lake City; seven great-grandchildren and several extended family members.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, August 30 from 6-8 p.m. at Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler. The funeral service will be held on Friday, August 31 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Lake Butler and the burial service will immediately follow at Dekle Cemetery.

Wayne Limbaugh, former top deputy

Wayne Allan Limbaugh, 45, of Jacksonville passed away August 19, 2018. He was born January 8, 1973 in Jacksonville to Phillip Limbaugh and Carol Ann Roberson Limbaugh. Wayne honorably served his country in the United States Navy and considered it his proudest accomplishment. He later became a deputy at the Baker County Sheriff's office and was awarded the title "Deputy of the Year" in 2007. Wayne was an avid Florida Gator and Jacksonville Jaguar fan. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles and grilling out. Wayne loved his dog Buddy, but most of all he loved being with his family and spending time playing with his grandson, nieces and nephews. Wayne was predeceased by his father.



Wayne Limbaugh

Mr. Limbaugh is survived by his loving wife of 21 years, Daffney Marie Limbaugh of Jacksonville; daughter, Kayla King of Houston, TX; brothers Phillip Douglas Limbaugh, and James Kelly Limbaugh, both of Jacksonville; sister Jana Nicolay of Jacksonville; grandson Markell King.

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

Crawford family reunion Sept. 3

Descendants of Bart and Emma Crawford will hold a family reunion on Labor Day, September 3 on the property of Auzzie and Bertha Crawford in Taylor.

Paper goods and drinks will be furnished. Bring your own picnic basket.

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

Margaret Matthews of Baldwin

Margaret Matthews, 84, of Baldwin passed away Sunday, August 19, 2018 at St. Vincent's Hospital with her family by her side. She was born in South Carolina and resided in Baldwin most of her life. Mrs. Matthews was a Baptist and was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Robert Matthews Sr. and son Marty Matthews.

Survivors include her son Charles R. Matthews Jr. (Tammy); daughters Betty Byrd (Johnny), Joyce Pringle (Everett) and Donna Diedolf (Robert); brothers Julian Woodle and Ronald Woodle; sisters Nobie McElveen, Helen Warr and Thelma Williams; grandchildren Christie Knowles (Tim), John Byrd (Ashley), Brad Pringle (Madison), Charles R. Matthews III (Jeanean), Mandy Strayer (Jason), Bobby Diedolf (Emily), Ian Schneider and Cara Matthews; 11 great-grandchildren; numerous other family and friends.

The funeral service for Mrs. Matthews was held on August 22, 2018 at Brandy Branch Baptist Church in Bryceville with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. Interment followed at Brandy Branch Cemetery. Giddens-Reed Funeral Home of Baldwin was in charge of arrangements.



Fall vegetable class on Sept. 7

Space is still open to learn basic gardening techniques for a successful vegetable gardening experience at the Extension Office's class on September 7 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Topics will also include raised bed gardening, growing organically, and tips for growing your favorite fall veggies. \$10 per person; includes take home information and a seed variety pack of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, and radish.

For more information, please call the Baker County Extension Office at (904) 259-3520. Pre-register for the class at the Ag Center in Macclenny or online at: <https://fall-veggie-gardening.eventbrite.com>

Very grateful

The family of Faye Claudine Rhoden expresses its deepest thanks to the many friends and loved ones who displayed such love and sympathy during the recent illness and death of our mother. The prayers, telephone calls, cards and flowers meant so much to her throughout her illness, and the displays of affection following her death leave our family sincerely humbled. Special thanks is extended to Dr. Edsel Bone and the brothers and sisters of the First Baptist Church of Macclenny. Thank you for your prayers, support and love; the meal you prepared for our family was delicious and appreciated. We are eternally grateful.

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CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

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

CONTACT US

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



Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com Photos by Joel Addington
Volunteer Jannie Douglass serves David Kurtz.

'Senior' prom night fun

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The county's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and the Council on Aging joined forces last Friday to give local seniors a night to remember.

More than 30 guests attended the Senior Prom night at the Ag Center the evening of August 24 for dinner, music and dancing, most of them donning formal attire for occasion.

"This extraordinary group enjoys doing things for the community and they did it all, from start to finish!" said the Council on Aging's (COA) Darlene Rockefeller by email.

Rose Ginda, 87, wore a white gown and was joined by her date Pat Wagoner. She said it was her first time at the long-running annual affair and called it "fantastic." She was later selected as the prom queen.

"She looked so pretty in her crown and has been wearing it to the center," said Ms. Rockefeller, adding that Woody Sharp was named prom king.

Susan Whittle of Glen St. Mary had also not been to the event in the past and was impressed by all the food and well-dressed attendees.

"Everybody looks so elegant," she said from behind shiny red lipstick.

Mary Gay of Sanderson visits the COA senior center in downtown Macclenny nearly every day and wore an Irish green gown with lace. She was accompanied by her granddaughter Melissa Eisenhauer.

Ms. Gay said it was her fifth year at the senior prom. "It keeps her young," added Ms. Eisenhauer.

Larry and Gloria Daniels were at the event for the first time last weekend as well. The Macclenny residents



Gloria and Larry Daniels.



Lindall Melton (l) and Susan Whittle.

said it was nice to get out and socialize with others in the community.

"If you don't get out and do things, you never know what's going on," said Mr. Daniels.

Among the highlights, said Ms. Rockefeller, were the homemade pound cake and the dancing.

"The music was upbeat and we could've danced until we dropped. Fortunately, no one actually dropped. We did line dancing, the Cuban Shuffle and the Wobble," she recalled.

Door prizes were raffled off, including gifts, cakes and gift cards.

"We would like to say thank you to everyone who had a part in this! This year was even better than last year's prom. Charles Wesley was in charge of it this



Mary Gay and granddaughter Melissa Eisenhauer.

year. We loved his enthusiasm and eagerness to make it great. Also, he says, they would like to do it again next year," said Ms. Rockefeller.



Courtesy of Clay Taylor

Show us where you've been!

Clay and Donna Taylor of Jacksonville pose with a copy of *The Press* outside the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland on August 14, a month after it was the site of an historical summit meeting between President Trump and Vladimir Putin. The Taylors were on an 11-day Baltic Sea cruise that took them also to Oslo, Berlin, St. Petersburg and other cities. Mr. Taylor is a 1977 graduate of Baker County High School and the son of the late Betty Harvey Searcy of Taylor. He is in the process of assuming ownership of the family land. *Traveling to exotic places? Send us a copy of your photo on location c/o editor@bakercountypress.com and include pertinent details.*

Dylan sings anthem

Releases first EP 24 hours earlier

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

It was a busy weekend for Dylan Gerard.

The Macclenny native and recording artist released his first EP titled "It's Always About a Woman" Friday and sang the National Anthem at the Jaguars preseason game on Saturday.

He said he was honored to be asked to sing the anthem for an organization he loves and believes in so much.

"I don't know if there is another song in the American catalog of music that holds more weight and meaning than 'The Star Spangled Banner,'" explained Mr. Gerard by email Monday.

"Now, with that being said, a lot of pressure accompanies the performance of that song and I was extremely nervous about singing it. I wanted to do it justice and make everyone listening proud. It felt good to me, nerves got in the way here and there, but thankfully, the highest notes weren't out of reach."

He hummed the song before launching into a minute-and-a-half performance in front of thousands of football fans.

"The noise of the stadium, the announcements, the music playing, everything was loud and slightly delayed in surround sound," he remembered. "So I found my starting note, put in my in-ear monitors, and then kept humming the anthem for about five minutes straight so I wouldn't lose my key."

He didn't attempt to do anything unique with the song, however.

"... It was a little quicker than I normally would sing it. I also took out a vocal run or two. I didn't think too much about making the anthem 'mine,' I mostly thought about not messing it up or becoming a meme. I don't really believe it should necessarily be flashy. So, I



Sadie Ferguson

New arrival

Stephen and Kristy Lynn Ferguson of Macclenny are pleased to announce the arrival of Sadie Belle Ferguson on August 9, 2018 at UF Shands Gainesville.

Sadie weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long.

She joins siblings Keegan, Dawson, Stetson, Kinsley, Kolt and Stone.

'Fill the boot' this weekend

Baker County firefighters again this year will be passing around "the boot" collecting money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Labor Day custom around the nation reflects a 60-year tradition where volunteers man intersections seeking donations to help kids and adults with MD, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases.

Watch for the firefighters this Saturday and Sunday — and give generously.



PHOTO BY THE JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Dylan Gerard sings the National Anthem Saturday night at TIAA Bank Field.

focused on singing it with emotion, a sense of reverence and pride," he said.

Singing on such a big stage was tough, even more so than appearing on national television for *The Voice* last year.

"It was extremely nerve-racking! I just had to say a little prayer and focus my thoughts on the meaning of the song, what it means to truly be an American.

"I didn't really hear the reactions of the fans in the moment because I was so focused on singing and not listening to my voice coming back to me in delay, but after I was done and walking back under the stadium, a handful of people thanked me and said I did a good job."

Being down on the field, the 6-foot-1 singer-songwriter felt dwarfed by the NFL players. He said the staff he dealt with were "amazingly hospitable" as well.

The performance came about through social media. The Jaguars reached out, he said, and offered two

dates and he selected Saturday partly because of his EP release but also due to his schedule and wanting to ensure his family could join him.

The five-song EP is available for download and streaming on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify and elsewhere.

The project was eight months in the making and funded by donors, Mr. Gerard wrote in an Instagram post announcing the release. He also thanked his collaborators, including Josh Wicker, studios The Audio Attic and Tiny Tape Room, drummer David Church, Blake and Reid Parish, singer Karli Webster, organ player Natalie Syler, horn players Steve Strawley and Lance Reed.

"... I had so many encouraging and loving people around me helping me mentally and emotionally get to this point," he wrote. "I didn't and couldn't have done this alone. A lot of people helped me make this dish and I really hope you guys come back for seconds."

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LEGAL NOTICES

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS FOR THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State for Florida, do hereby give notice that the following proposed amendments and revisions to the Florida Constitution will be presented in each county on the 2018 General Election ballot.

The language for these amendments may also be found at FloridaPublicNotices.com, at DOS.Elections.MyFlorida.com/initiatives, and at this newspaper's website.

NO. 1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION 37

BALLOT TITLE:
Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 from all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect January 1, 2019.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions. —

(a) Every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legal or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, and on the assessed valuation greater than one hundred thousand dollars and up to one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repeated on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homesteaded property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions: (1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or (2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as determined in the first tax year that the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption, and who has maintained thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these additional exemptions, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homesteaded property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homesteaded property to:

- (1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) The surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.
- (3) A first responder who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury or injuries sustained in the line of duty. Casual connection between a disability and service in the line of duty shall not be presumed but must be determined as provided by general law. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "disability" does not include a chronic condition or chronic disease, unless the injury sustained in the line of duty was the sole cause of the chronic condition or chronic disease.

As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term "first responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic, and the term "in the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 37. Increased homestead exemption. — This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII increasing the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homesteaded property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 from all levies other than school district levies shall take effect January 1, 2019.

NO. 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE XII, SECTION 27

BALLOT TITLE:
Limitations on Property Tax Assessments

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified nonhomestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments. —

(a) Amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homesteaded property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (b) and (c) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008. Subsections (f) and (g) of Section 4 of Article VII are repealed effective January 1, 2019; however, the legislature shall by joint resolution propose an amendment repealing the repeal of subsections (f) and (g), which shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general election of 2018 and, if approved, shall take effect January 1, 2019.

(b) The amendment to subsection (a) abolishing the scheduled repeal of subsections (a) and (b) of Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution as it existed in 2017, shall take effect January 1, 2019.

NO. 3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE X, SECTION 29

BALLOT TITLE:
Voter Control of Gambling in Florida

BALLOT SUMMARY:
This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:
The amendment's impact on state and local government revenues and costs, if any, cannot be determined at this time because of its unknown effect on gambling operations that have not been approved by voters through a constitutional amendment proposed by a citizens' initiative petition process.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE X, FLORIDA CONSTITUTION, is amended to include the following new section:
Voter Control of Gambling in Florida.

(a) This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling in the State of Florida. This amendment requires a vote by citizens' initiative pursuant to Article XI, section 3, in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law. This section amends this Article, and also affects Article XI, by making citizens' initiatives the exclusive method of authorizing casino gambling.

(b) As used in this section, "casino gambling" means any of the types of games typically found in casinos and that are within the definition of Class III gaming in the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq. ("IGRA"), and in 25 C.F.R. §502.4, upon adoption of this amendment, and any that are added to such definition of Class III gaming in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, any house banking game, including but not limited to card games such as baccarat, chemin de fer, blackjack (21), and pai gow (if played as house banking games), any player-banked game that simulates a house banking game, such as California black jack, casino games such as roulette, craps, and keno, any slot machines as defined in 15 U.S.C. 1171(a)(1), and any other game not authorized by Article X, section 15, whether or not defined as a slot machine, in which outcomes are determined by random number generator or are similarly assigned randomly, such as instant or historical racing. As used herein, "casino gambling" includes any electronic gaming devices, simulated gambling devices, video lottery devices, internet sweepstakes devices, and any other form of electronic or electromechanical facsimiles of any game of chance, slot machine, or casino-style game, regardless of how such devices are defined under IGRA. As used herein, "casino gambling" does not include pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, dog racing, or all other exhibitions of animal races, or games of chance, and "gambling" are synonymous.

(c) Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit the right of the Legislature to exercise its authority through general law to restrict, regulate, or tax any gaming or gambling activities. In addition, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the ability of the state or Native American tribes to negotiate gaming compacts pursuant to the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for the conduct of casino gambling on tribal lands, or to affect any existing gambling on tribal lands pursuant to compacts executed by the state and Native American tribes pursuant to IGRA.

(d) This section is effective upon approval by the voters, is self-executing, and no legislative implementation is required, or any part of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion or portions shall be severed from the invalid portion and given the fullest possible force and effect.

NO. 4 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

BALLOT TITLE:
Voting Restoration Amendment

BALLOT SUMMARY:
This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:
The precise effect of this amendment on state and local government costs cannot be determined, but the operation of current voter registration laws, combined with an increased number of felons registering to vote, will produce higher overall costs relative to the processes in place today. The impact, if any, on state and local government revenues cannot be determined. The fiscal impact of any future legislation that implements a different process cannot be reasonably determined.

FULL TEXT:
Article VI, Section 4. Disqualifications.—

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil rights or removal of disability. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any disqualification from voting arising from a felony conviction shall terminate and voting rights shall be restored upon completion of all terms of sentence including parole or probation.

(b) No person convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense shall be qualified to vote until restoration of civil rights.

- (c) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to any of the following offices:
- (1) Florida representative,
 - (2) Florida senator,
 - (3) Florida lieutenant governor,
 - (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
 - (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
 - (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years.

NO. 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 19

BALLOT TITLE:
Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 19. Supermajority vote required to impose, authorize, or raise state taxes or fees.—

(a) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE OR AUTHORIZE NEW STATE TAX OR FEE.— No new state tax or fee may be imposed or authorized by the legislature except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature and presented to the Governor for approval pursuant to Article III, Section 8.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO RAISE STATE TAXES OR FEES.— No state tax or fee may be raised by the legislature except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature and presented to the Governor for approval pursuant to Article III, Section 8.

(c) APPLICABILITY This section does not authorize the imposition of any state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by this Constitution, and does not apply to any tax or fee imposed by, or authorized to be imposed by, a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

(d) DEFINITIONS. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Fee" means any charge or payment required by law, including any fee for service, fee or cost for licenses, and charge for service.
- (2) "Raise" means:
 - a. To increase or authorize an increase in the rate of a state tax or fee imposed on a percentage or per mill basis; to increase or authorize an increase in the amount of a state tax or fee imposed on a flat or fixed amount basis; or
 - c. To decrease or eliminate a state tax or fee exemption or credit.
- (e) SINGLE-SUBJECT A state tax or fee imposed, authorized, or raised under this section must be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject.

NO. 6 CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ARTICLE I, SECTION 16 ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 8 AND 21 ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION

BALLOT TITLE:
Rights of Crime Victims; Judges

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims' rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges from seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.—

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county in which the crime was committed, or in the county or counties in which the crime or information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties the trial will take place. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed throughout the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) To preserve and protect the right of crime victims to achieve justice, ensure a meaningful role throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems for crime victims, and ensure that crime victims' rights and interests are respected and protected by law in a manner no less vigorous than protections afforded to criminal defendants and juvenile delinquents, every victim is entitled to the following rights, beginning at the time of his or her victimization:

- (1) The right to due process and to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity.
- (2) The right to be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse.
- (3) The right within the judicial process, to be reasonably protected from the accused and any other person acting on behalf of the accused. However, nothing contained herein is intended to create a special relationship between the crime victim and any law enforcement agency or office absent a special relationship or duty as defined by Florida law.

(c) The right to have the safety and well-being of the victim and the victim's family considered when setting bail, including setting pretrial release conditions that protect the safety and well-being of the victim and the victim's family.

(d) The right to prevent the disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family, or which could disclose confidential or privileged information of the victim.

(e) A victim shall have the following specific rights upon request:

- a. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of, and to be present at, all public proceedings involving the criminal conduct, including, but not limited to, trial, plea, sentencing, or adjudication, even if the victim will be a witness at the proceeding, notwithstanding any rule to the contrary. A victim shall also be provided reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any release or escape of the defendant or delinquent, and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.
- b. The right to be heard in any public proceeding involving pretrial or any other release from any form of legal constraint, plea, sentencing, adjudication, or parole, and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.
- c. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney concerning any plea agreements, participation in pretrial diversion programs, release, restitution, sentencing, or any other disposition of the case.

(f) The right to provide information regarding the impact of the offender's conduct on the victim and the victim's family to the individual responsible for conducting any presentence investigation or compiling any presentence investigation report, and to have any such information considered in any sentencing recommendations submitted to the court.

(g) The right to receive a copy of any presentence report, and any other report or record relevant to the exercise of a victim's right, except for such portions made confidential or exempt by law.

(h) The right to be informed of the conviction, sentence, adjudication, place and time of incarceration, or other disposition of the convicted offender, any scheduled release date of the offender, and the release of or the escape of the offender from custody.

(i) The right to be informed of all postconviction processes and procedures, to participate in such processes and procedures, to provide information to the release authority to be considered before any release decision is made, and to be notified of any release decision regarding the offender. The parole or early release authority shall extend the right to be heard to any person harmed by the offender.

(j) The right to be informed of clemency and expungement procedures, to provide information to the governor, the court, any clemency board, and other authority in these procedures, and to have that information considered before a clemency or expungement decision is made; and to be notified of such decision in advance of any release of the offender.

(k) The rights of the victim, as provided in subparagraph (6)a., subparagraph (6)b., or subparagraph (6)c., that apply to any first appearance proceeding are satisfied by a reasonable attempt by the appropriate agency to notify the victim and convey the victim's views to the court.

(l) The right to the prompt return of the victim's property when no longer needed as evidence in the case.

(m) The right to full and timely restitution in every case and from each convicted offender for all losses suffered, both directly and indirectly, by the victim as a result of the criminal conduct.

(n) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay, and to a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related postjudgment proceedings.

(o) A state attorney may file a good faith demand for a speedy trial and the trial court shall hold a calendar call, with notice, within fifteen days of the filing demand, to schedule a trial to commence on a date at least five days but not more than sixty days after the date of the calendar call unless the trial judge enters an order with specific findings of fact justifying a trial date more than sixty days after the calendar call.

(p) At state-level appeals and collateral attacks on any judgment, a victim must be complete within two years from the date of appeal in non-capital cases and within five years from the date of appeal in capital cases, unless a court enters an order with specific findings as to why the court was unable to comply with this subparagraph and the circumstances causing the delay. Each year, the chief judge of any district court of appeal or the chief justice of the supreme court shall report on a case-by-case basis to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate all cases where the court entered an order regarding inability to comply with this subparagraph. The legislature may enact legislation to implement this subparagraph.

(q) The right to be informed of these rights, and to be informed that victims can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to their rights. This information shall be made available to the general public and provided to all crime victims in the form of a card or by other means intended to effectively advise the victim of their rights under this section.

(r) The victim, the retained attorney of the victim, a lawful representative of the victim, or the office of the state attorney upon request of the victim, may assert and seek enforcement of the rights enumerated in this section and any other right afforded to a victim by law in any trial or appellate court, or before any other authority with jurisdiction over the case, as a matter of right. The court or other authority with jurisdiction shall act promptly on such a request, affording a remedy by due course of law for the violation of any right. The reasons for any decision regarding the disposition of a victim's right shall be clearly stated on the record.

(s) The granting of the rights enumerated in this section to victims may not be construed to deny or impair any other rights possessed by victims. The provisions of this section apply throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes, are self-executing, and do not require implementing legislation. This section may not be construed to create any cause of action for damages against the state or a political subdivision of the state, or any officer, employee, or agent of the state or its political subdivisions.

(t) As used in this section, a "victim" is a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed. The term "victim" includes the victim's lawful representative, the parent or guardian of a minor, or the next of kin of a homicide victim, except upon a showing that the interest of such individual would be in actual or potential conflict with the interests of the victim. The term "victim" does not include the accused. The terms "crime" and "criminal" include delinquent acts and conduct victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

ARTICLE V JUDICIARY

SECTION 8. Eligibility.—No person shall be eligible for office of justice or judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court. No justice or judge shall serve after attaining the age of seventy-five or seventy years, whichever is the earlier, or after completing at least one-half of which he has been served.

No person is eligible for the office of justice of the supreme court or judge of a district court of appeal unless the person is, and has been for the preceding ten years, a member of the bar of Florida. No person is eligible for the office of circuit judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, no person is eligible for the office of county court judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, a person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of county court judge in a county having a population of 40,000 or less if the person is a member in good standing of the bar of Florida.

SECTION 21. Judicial interpretation of statutes and rules.—Interpreting a state statute or rule, a state court or an officer hearing an administrative action pursuant to general law may not refer to an administrative agency's interpretation of such statute or rule, and must instead interpret such statute or rule de novo.

ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

Eligibility of justices and judges.—The amendment to Section 8 of Article V, which increases the age at which a justice or judge is no longer eligible to serve in judicial office except upon temporary assignment, shall take effect July 1, 2019.

NO. 7 CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ARTICLE IX, SECTIONS 7 AND 8 ARTICLE X, NEW SECTION

BALLOT TITLE:
First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Grants mandatory payment of death benefits and waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who died performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity, provides governance structure.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE IX
EDUCATION

SECTION 7. State University System.—

(a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM. The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall hold office for the term of one year, with staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the president of the Florida student association, or the equivalent, shall also be members of the board.

(e) FEES. Any proposal or action of a constituent university to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law, must be approved by at least nine affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the constituent university, if approved by the board of trustees is required by general law, and at least twelve affirmative votes of the members of the board of governors, if approved by the board of governors is required by general law, in order to take effect. A fee under this subsection shall not include tuition.

SECTION 8. State College System.—

(a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence and to provide access to undergraduate education to the students of this state, to originate articulated pathways to a baccalaureate degree, to ensure superior commitment to teaching and learning, and to respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of communities by aligning certificate and degree programs with local and regional workforce needs, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state college system of Florida.

(b) STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM. There shall be a single state college system comprised of all public community and state colleges. A local board of trustees shall govern each state college system institution and the state board of education shall supervise the state college system.

(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each state college system institution shall be governed by a local board of trustees dedicated to the purposes of the state college system. A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college. The powers and duties of the boards of trustees shall be provided by law. Each member shall be appointed by the governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the senate.

(d) ROLE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. The state board of education shall supervise the state college system as provided by law.

ARTICLE X MISCELLANEOUS

Death benefits for survivors of first responders and military members.—

(a) A death benefit shall be paid by the employing agency when a firefighter, a paramedic, an emergency medical technician, a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer, or a member of the Florida National Guard, while engaged in the performance of their official duties, is:

- (1) Accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of the individual's life, provided that such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted; or
- (2) Unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of such unlawful and intentional act or is killed during active duty.

(b) A death benefit shall be paid by funds from general revenue when an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces:

- (1) Accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of the individual's life, provided that such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted; or
- (2) Unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of such unlawful and intentional act or is killed during active duty.

(c) If a firefighter, a paramedic, an emergency medical technician, a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer, or an active duty member of the Florida National Guard or United States Armed Forces is accidentally killed as specified in paragraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1), or unintentionally and intentionally killed as specified in paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(2), the state shall waive certain educational expenses that the child or spouse of the deceased first responder or military member incurs while obtaining a career certificate, an undergraduate education, or a postgraduate education.

(d) An eligible first responder must have been working for the State of Florida or any of its political subdivisions or agencies at the time of death. An eligible military member must have been a resident of this state or his or her duty post must have been within this state at the time of death.

(e) The legislature shall implement this section by general law.

(f) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

NO. 8 CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4, NEW SECTION ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION

BALLOT TITLE:
School Board Term Limits and Duties; Election Schools

BALLOT SUMMARY:
Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members and requires the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools. Currently, district school boards have a constitutional duty to operate, control, and supervise all public schools. The amendment maintains a school board's duties to public schools it establishes, but permits the state to operate, control, and supervise public schools not established by the school board.

FULL TEXT:
ARTICLE IX
EDUCATION

SECTION 4. School districts; school boards.—

Road Ranger is expanding into Baker

The FDOT's roadside assistance Road Ranger program along Interstate 10 expanded on August 27 and will be implemented in two phases, including Baker County.

While the Road Ranger program has existed in the Jacksonville area since 2000, the program has recently seen additional expansion in Northeast Flor-

ida. FDOT has recently completed its service launch on Interstate 75 and is now launching new service routes on Interstate 10.

The Interstate 10 Road Ranger service area will now span from State Road 53 (Exit 258) in Madison County and U.S. 301 (Exit 343) in Duval County, in addition to the current service offered in Duval County.

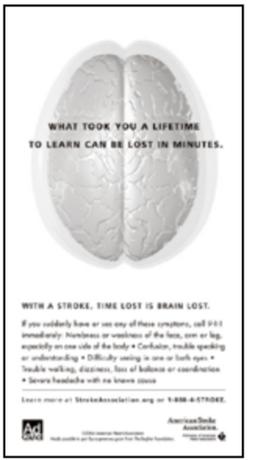
It will open in two phases, the first U.S. 41 (Exit 301) in Columbia County east to U.S. 301 (Exit 343) in Duval County. Ranger service in this area will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A second phase to begin on September 17 runs east from Madison County to U.S. 41 in Columbia County. The Ranger program pro-

vides free highway support services during incidents to reduce delay and improve safety for motorists. Since the program's inception in 2000, the Road Rangers have made more than 4.3 million service assists, with more occurring daily. The Road Ranger Service Patrol conducts temporary traffic control operations for incidents, removes debris from

the roadways, and provides assistance to stranded motorists. When Road Rangers are not responding to calls, they continuously patrol the expressways in their respective coverage areas, monitor traffic conditions, and report any new incidents they observe.

Motorists can request Road Ranger service by dialing *347 (*FHP).



vs.
CATHERINE M. COLLINGWOOD A/K/A CATHERINE MARLENE COLLINGWOOD, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 14, 2018, and entered in Case No. 02-2017-CA-000080 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, in which The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-10, is the Plaintiff and Catherine M. Collingwood a/k/a Catherine Marlene Collingwood, Daniel Collingwood a/k/a Daniel Jay Collingwood, Unknown Party #1 n/k/a Michael Collingwood, Unknown Party #2 n/k/a Stacey Hodges, are defendants, the Baker County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on ALL SALES WILL BE HELD AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE, 339 E. MACCLENNY AVE., MACCLENNY, FL 32063. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER MUST PAY AT LEAST 5% OF THE SUCCESSFUL BID BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK AT THE TIME OF THE SALE. THE REMAINING BID AMOUNT MUST BE TENDERED BY 4:00PM ON THE DAY OF THE SALE BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY. Baker County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 18th day of October, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 9, FOREST PARK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 62, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 738 NORTH 5TH STREET, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

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.

Dated in Baker County, Florida this 21st day of August, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Baker County, Florida
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law
P.O. Box 23028
Tampa, FL 33623
(813) 221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eService: servealaw@albertellilaw.com
8/23-8/30c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 17000108CAMXAX

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF MATAWIN VENTURES TRUST SERIES 2017-3, Plaintiff,
vs.
DOUGLAS R. RAULERSON, et al, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed August 8, 2018 entered in Civil Case No. 17000108CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Macclenny, Florida, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Baker County Courthouse, 339 East Macclenny Avenue Room 113, Macclenny, FL 32063 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 15th day of November, 2018 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 2, OF AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE PINES AND SAID SUBDIVISION BEING A PORTION OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID LOT 2 BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, WITH THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 125 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD NO. 125), A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY, AND RUN THENCE NORTH 00°11'30" WEST, ALONG THE SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF 430.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG THE SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 00°11'30" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 130.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 87°13'27" EAST, NOW DEPARTING FROM THE SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF 295.00 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF PINE LOOP ROAD, A 50.00 FOOT COUNTY MAINTAINED RIGHT OF WAY; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00°48'16" EAST, ALONG THE SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF 130.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 87°14'05" WEST, NOW DEPARTING FROM THE SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF 296.36 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
As Clerk of the Court
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Mccalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
110 SE 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(407) 674-1850
8/23-8/30c

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-CA-000095

JOHNNY EPPS, Plaintiff,
vs.
ONEDIA GUNTER, deceased and her heirs, assigns, widower, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against her, or any of them all the unknown persons;

CORINE WRIGHT, deceased and her heirs, assigns, widower, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against her, or any of them all the unknown persons;

JERINE BIVINS, deceased and her heirs, assigns, widower, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against her, or any of them all the unknown persons;

LEON WOOLBRIGHT, deceased and his heirs, assigns, widow, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against him, or any of them all the unknown persons;

CHRISTINE CURRY, deceased and her heirs, assigns, widower, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against her, or any of them all the unknown persons; and
NATHAN EPPS, deceased and his heirs, assigns, widow, devisee, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming through, by under, or against him, or any of them all the unknown persons;

Defendants,

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Any known or unknown natural person, and, when described as such, the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any known or unknown person who is known to be dead or is not known to be either dead or alive: ONEDIA GUNTER, CORINE WRIGHT, JAMES EPPS, JERINE BIVINS, LEON WOOLBRIGHT, CHRISTINE CURRY and NATHAN EPPS.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to Partition the following real property in Baker County Florida described as:

SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION TWO IN TOWNSHIP THREE, SOUTH OF RANGE TWENTY EAST, CONTAINING 40 ACRES, MORE OR LESS

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on the Petitioner's Attorney whose name and address is HUGH D. FISH, JR., at P.O. Box 531, Macclenny, Florida 32063, on or before September 10, 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of Court, either before service on the petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WITNESS my hand and Seal of this Court on this 9th day of August, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
As Clerk of the Court
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Hugh D. Fish, Jr.
PO Box 531
Macclenny, FL 32063
904-259-6606
8/16-9/6c

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Baker County Board of County Commissioners will hold a meeting at Baker County Administration, Commission Chambers on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The sole purpose of the meeting is to discuss the County's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant application for improvements to the children's playground equipment at King Ruise and Jonesville Parks. Any interested persons are invited to attend and provide comments. If you have questions, please contact Shannon Williams, Grants Coordinator, at 386-752-4675.

8/30c

CITIZENS OF MACCLENNY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE at the regular meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:00 o'clock P.M. at City Hall, 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida, the City of Macclenny will consider the below Ordinance for final reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MACCLENNY, FLORIDA, GRANTING CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ("CLAY ELECTRIC"), ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A THIRTY (30) YEAR NON-EXCLUSIVE ELECTRIC SERVICE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS WITH ELECTRIC SERVICES (THE "FRANCHISE") WHICH PROVIDES THEREIN THE RIGHTS, REQUIREMENT, AND OBLIGATIONS OF CLAY ELECTRIC UNDER THE TERMS OF THE FRANCHISE, INCLUDING THE OBLIGATION OF CLAY ELECTRIC TO PAY THE CITY A MONTHLY FRANCHISE FEE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN THE CITY CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Anyone having an interest in the final reading of this Ordinance is invited to attend the meeting.
8/30c

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Notice of Public Sale: Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on September 14, 2018, 12:00 pm at 10510 Duval Lane, Macclenny, FL 32063, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Miracle Automotive & Truck Service Center Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

2014 Hyundai Elantra
VIN# 5NP0H4AE2EH524711

8/30c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO.: 02-2018-DR-286

April Griffis, Petitioner,
and
Jason Benoit, Respondent,

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD

TO: Jason Benoit
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 185 NW Lynear Place, Lake City, FL 32055

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 it on April Griffis whose address is 6417 CW Webb Road, Macclenny, FL 32063, on or before September 13, 2018, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, 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 Circuit Courts office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Courts 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 clerks 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: August 14, 2018.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Julie B. Combs
Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 02-2017-CA-000096

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER, Plaintiff,
vs.
JOHNNY A. SIMMONS, SR. A/K/A JOHNNY A. SIMMONS, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 14, 2018, and entered in Case No. 02-2017-CA-000096 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida in which Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, is the Plaintiff and, Carol Simmons, Johnny A. Simmons, Sr. a/k/a Johnny A. Simmons, Old Nursery Plantation Owners Association, Inc., Unknown Party #1 n/k/a Britney Haigler, Unknown Party #2 n/k/a Matthew Simmons, are defendants, the Baker County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on ALL SALES WILL BE HELD AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE, 339 E. MACCLENNY AVE., MACCLENNY, FL 32063. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER MUST PAY AT LEAST 5% OF THE SUCCESSFUL BID BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK AT THE TIME OF THE SALE. THE REMAINING BID AMOUNT MUST BE TENDERED BY 4:00PM ON THE DAY OF THE SALE BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY. Baker County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 15th day of November, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 51, OLD NURSERY PLANTATION, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES 85 AND 85A THROUGH J CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 7784 WINDER ROAD, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

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.

Dated in Baker County, Florida this 21st day of August, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Baker County, Florida
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law
P.O. Box 23028
Tampa, FL 33623
(813) 221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eService: servealaw@albertellilaw.com
8/23-8/30c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO.: 02-2018-CA-000036

CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff,
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF OPHELIA CRAVEY KLOTZ; ET AL, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF OPHELIA CRAVEY KLOTZ; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 704 NORTH 5TH STREET, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF OPHELIA CRAVEY KLOTZ; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 704 NORTH 5TH STREET, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

YOU ARE NOTIFIED of an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Baker County:

LOT 6, FOREST PARK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 62, PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 704 NORTH 5TH STREET, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida; Case No. 2018-CA-000036; and is styled CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF OPHELIA CRAVEY KLOTZ; JOHN LEWIS KLOTZ A/K/A JOHN L. KLOTZ; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Kelley L. Church, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 255 S. Orange Ave., Ste. 900, Orlando, FL 32801, on or before September 24, 2018, (or 30 days from the first date of publication) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately after service; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiff's interest which will be binding upon you.

DATED: August 13, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
As Clerk of the Court
By: Julie B. Combs
As Deputy Clerk

Quintairo, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.
255 S. Orange Ave., Ste. 900
Orlando, FL 32801-3454
Phone: (855) 287-0240
Fax: (855) 287-0211
8/23-8/30c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 02-2008-CA-00107

U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff,
vs.
CARL L WEST AKA CARL WEST, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated August 21, 2018, and entered in Case No. 02-2008-CA-00107 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida in which U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, is the Plaintiff and Carl L. West a/k/a Carl West, Loretta J. West, Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP, are defendants, the Baker County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on ALL SALES WILL BE HELD AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE, 339 E. MACCLENNY AVE., MACCLENNY, FL 32063. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER MUST PAY AT LEAST 5% OF THE SUCCESSFUL BID BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK AT THE TIME OF THE SALE. THE REMAINING BID AMOUNT MUST BE TENDERED BY 4:00PM ON THE DAY OF THE SALE BY CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY. Baker County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 18th day of October, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOTS 29 & 30, BLOCK B, MCCLANNY II, UNIT II, A SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES 64-65 IN CURRENT RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA

A/K/A 4209 HICKORY ST, MACCLENNY, FL 32063

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.

Dated in Baker County, Florida this 23rd day of August, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Baker County, Florida
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law
P.O. Box 23028
Tampa, FL 33623
(813) 221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eService: servealaw@albertellilaw.com
8/30-9/6c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 18000010CAMXAX

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs.
Ernie L. Hall, Jr., et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 8, 2018 entered in Case No. 18000010CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., is the Plaintiff and Janet Marie Bullock f/k/a Janet B. Hall a/k/a Janet Marie Bullock-Arnold, Unknown Spouse of Janet Marie Bullock f/k/a Janet B. Hall a/k/a Janet Marie Bullock-Arnold, Ernie Hall a/k/a Ernie L. Hall, Jr. a/k/a Ernie Leroy Hall; Unknown Spouse of Ernie Hall a/k/a Ernie L. Hall, Jr. a/k/a Ernie Leroy Hall are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the east door of the courthouse at 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 15th day of November, 2018 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

BLOCK 1, LOTS 33 AND 34, DEERFIELD SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 SECTION 36 AND ALL THAT PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 35, LYING EAST OF THE CENTERLINE OF BLACK BOTTOM DRIVE ALL IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
As Clerk of the Court
By: Tina Carrington
As Deputy Clerk

Brock & Scott PLLC
1501 NW 49th St, Suite 200
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
8/23-8/30c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 18-000035CP

In Re: The Estate Of
BETTY HARVEY SEARCY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of BETTY HARVEY SEARCY, deceased, whose date of death was April 18, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Duval County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is August 30, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Clay A. Smith
4720 Secret Harbor Drive North
Jacksonville, Florida 32257

Attorney for Personal Representative:
William B. McMenamy
Florida Bar Number: 292346
Stephen P. Holmgren
Florida Bar Number: 117761
Donahoe & Mcmenamy, P.a.
245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 450
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone: (904) 354-8080
Fax: (904) 791-9563
E-Mail: eservice@dmjjaxlaw.com

8/30-9/20c

The quarterly meeting of the Baker County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board will take place at 10 a.m., **Thursday, September 13, 2018**, at the Baker County Council on Aging Transit Building, 3264 Buck Starling Road, Macclenny, Florida, 32063. All interested persons are invited to attend. The Northeast Florida Regional Council adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable modifications for access to this meeting upon request. Requests should be received at least 72-hours in advance of the meeting in order to allow time to provide the requested service. For more information, contact the Northeast Florida Regional Council at (904) 279-0880 between 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

8/30c
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 September 14, 2018 at 10:00 am at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery 7611 West Mt. Vernon St., Glen St. Mary, FL 32040:

1999 Plymouth Van
VIN# 1P4GP44G5XB820237

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-CA-0103

NELDA C. CRE

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 904.259.2400 TO PLACE AN AD or...

ONLINE

www.bakercountypress.com

BY E-MAIL

classifieds@bakercountypress.com

BY MAIL

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

DEADLINE

Ads must be placed and paid for by
MONDAY at 5:00 P.M.

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

FOR SALE

Green Valencia peanuts for sale, \$30 a bushel. 386-752-3434.
7/5-8/30p

Burn barrels for sale, 55 gallon, steel, \$10 each. 912-843-8198, 386-365-4894. 8/23-8/30p

Surplus vehicles & equipment auction in Walton County, Saturday, September 15, 2018. Registration: 8:00 am; start: 9:30 am; location: Walton County Fairgrounds, 790 North 9th Street, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433. Preview: Friday, September 14, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. For details, visit: www.auctionsinternational.com or call: 800-536-1401, Ext. 110. 8/30p

MISCELLANEOUS

Alterations: basic hemming, zipper repair, and basic alterations, next day service on some items. Marva Williams, 904-868-8604, 904-275-2770. 5/17-11/8p

Gwen's Handyman Services: We repair what your husband fixed, we're your right hand handyman. 904-259-9128, 904-397-3400. 8/30p

Donate your car, 877-654-3662. Fast free towing, 24 hour response, maximum tax deduction, United Breast Cancer FDN: Providing breast cancer information and support programs. 8/30p

Lung cancer? And age 60+? You and your family may be entitled to significant cash award. Call 855-259-0557 for information. No risk, no money out of pocket. 8/30p

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

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

AUTOMOBILES

2014 Leprechaun 319DS Class C by Coachmen, 32', 2 slides, low miles, many extras, \$70,000. Call for details, 904-536-1844. 8/23-9/27p

ANIMALS

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

We pick up unwanted animals for free: horses, goats, and cows. Livestock transport services available. 904-222-5054. 8/23-9/13p

HELP WANTED

Notice to readers:

LV Hiers/Stone Transport

Now accepting applications for **Class A or B drivers** with hazmat CDL

Apply in person at
253 East Florida Avenue, Macclenny
Or call 904-259-2314

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

Aviation Grads work with JetBlue, United, Delta and others. Start here with hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-242-2649. 8/30p

Full-time oil change and tire technician, experience helpful. Apply in person at Jimmy's Auto Repair, 959 West Macclenny Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, Drug Free Workplace. 8/30c

Office help needed, full-time position, duties include cleaning and parts running. Drug Free Workplace, background check required, apply in person at 130 Lane Avenue North, Jacksonville, FL 32254. 8/30-9/6p

Semi-truck repair shop looking for motivated individual to perform truck repairs, will train the right candidate, full-time position, drug test required, apply in person at 130 Lane Ave North, Jacksonville, FL 32254. 8/30-9/6p

Okefenoke REMC is now accepting applications for a customer service representative, Nahunta Office. Applications can be printed from the website (OREMC.com) or picked up at any of our offices Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Applications will be accepted until Friday, September 7th at 5:00 pm at any of our offices or emailed to customer.service@oremc.com (The Co-op reserves the right to cancel any and all bids) Okefenoke REMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace. 8/30c

The Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for Planner (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 experience is required; OR Any Bachelor's degree with five (5) years experience in a Planning and Zoning Department of a government agency. 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 e-mail Cathy Williams HR Director at cathy.williams@bakercountyfl.org, phone 904-259-0207. This position is open until filled. Salary- \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually DOQ. Baker County is a drug free workplace and an equal opportunity employer. All applicants are considered for all positions without regard to age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or

Veteran status, medical condition or disability, or any other legally protected reason. 8/30-9/6c

Full-Time Paramedic/Emt: The Baker County Board of County Commissioners will be accepting applications until 4:00pm, Friday, September 14, 2018 for full-time PARAMEDIC/EMT. Must be a Florida certified Paramedic/EMT with current AHA certification as Healthcare provider and ACLS (paramedic) certified. EVOC training in a 16 hour course is also required. Additional training and certification in emergency response related areas will be a plus. Full benefits provided, salary dependent on experience and certifications. Only qualified applicants need to apply. Applications and job descriptions may be obtained from either the Baker County Administration Office at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063 or Baker County Emergency Services, 1190 W. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063 also online at www.bakercountyfl.org/jobs Baker County is a drug free workplace and an equal opportunity employer. All applicants are considered for all positions without regard to age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or Veteran status, medical condition or disability, or any other legally protected reason. 8/30-9/6c

Truck Driver: The Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for the position of Truck Driver. This is a full-time position @ 40 hours per week; four 10-hour days, Monday-Thursday. Salary for this position is \$21,320 annually/\$10.25 per hour. Benefits include Florida Retirement, paid vacation/sick leave and paid holidays. Graduation from an accredited high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency diploma required. Valid Class B CDL driver's license is required and a clean driving record acceptable to the county insurance provider. Must be able to carry out written and oral instructions. Former roll-off truck experience a plus. Applications and complete job description is available at the Human Resources Office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida, 32063 or online at www.bakercountyfl.org/jobs. Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 4:00pm. Baker County is a drug free workplace and an equal opportunity employer. All applicants are considered for all positions without regard to age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or Veteran status, medical condition or disability, or any other legally protected reason. 8/23-8/30c

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

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

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

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

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

for those that cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each working day. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract. All applicants will have to complete an interview before employment is granted. For more information, contact your nearest state workforce agency or Primitivo Marin @ (863) 368-1671 and mention job number 10906489. 8/23-8/30p

Lawn maintenance positions with established service, experience preferred, but willing to train, year-round work. Also looking for experienced foreman with good driving record. Must have reliable transportation. 904-444-3444. 8/23-8/30p

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

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

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE

Notice to Readers

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

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

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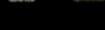
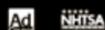


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STUDENT PROGRESSION ANNUAL REPORT

Florida Statute 1008.25(8)(b) mandates that the below data be provided to the public. The promotion and retention policies for each school are referenced and available to parents and students on the school district's website.

District Results for BAKER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Students Scoring at Level 1 and Level 2 on the Reading Portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FSA)

The following table shows FSA Reading results for all students (all curriculum groups) tested during the 2018 administration of the FSA in the district.

Grade Level	Total Number Tested	Number Scoring at Level 1	Percent Scoring at Level 1	Number Scoring at Level 2	Percent Scoring at Level 2	Number Scoring at Levels 1 and 2	Percent Scoring at Levels 1 and 2
3	376	38	10	68	18	56	28
4	368	103	28	99	27	202	55
5	376	113	30	94	25	207	55
6	369	100	27	111	30	211	57
7	375	139	37	79	21	218	58
8	379	95	25	102	27	197	52
9	328	69	21	82	25	151	46
10	303	58	19	85	28	143	47

Students Retained (not Promoted) in Grades 3 through 10

The following table shows the number and percentage of students retained, by grade, for all students in grades 3 through 10 within the district.

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number Retained	9	1	1	14	13	7	0	0
End-of-Year Membership*	398	382	398	380	389	390	344	321
Percent Retained	2.26%	.26%	.25%	3.68%	3.34%	1.79%	0%	0%

* End-of-year membership is the count of all students who are enrolled at the end of the year and for whom a decision on promotion status is required and reported.

Number of Students Promoted for Good Cause, by Category of Exemption

This table shows the number of third-grade students who were exempted from the FSA reading requirement and promoted for good cause at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

ELL/LEP Students with Less than 2 Years in ESOL	Students with Disabilities (SWD) not Tested on FSA per IEP	Students Passing Alternative Assessment	Students Demonstrating Proficiency through Portfolio	SWD Retained Once with 2+ Years of Remediation	Students Retained Twice with 2 or More Years of Remediation	Total Promoted with Cause
1	10	19	0	3	5	38



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SPORTS

Lady Cats sweep Yulee for first win

To host Wolfson Aug. 30

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

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The BCHS Lady Wildcat volleyball team rebounded from its season-opening loss with a 25-17, 25-14, 27-25 home sweep over Yulee on August 28.

The Lady Hornets appeared to be on the verge of forcing a fourth game after Emily Sheperis' block seemingly broke a 24-all tie in their favor in the third game. But after a brief discussion by the referees, Yulee was determined to have used the wrong server, and the 25-24 advantage swung Baker County's direction.

Allyson Crossland's kill on the ensuing volley sealed the team's first win of the season.

"They put in a lot of work after that first game" said head coach Ashley Holton, referencing the squad's loss last week to Oakleaf. "They realized this is not how they wanted their season to go. Now coming back after that and seeing this it shows me that they're ready to play."

Madison Barton led the Lady Cats (1-1) with nine kills and eight blocks, including a block that erased one of Yulee's few leads in the third game.

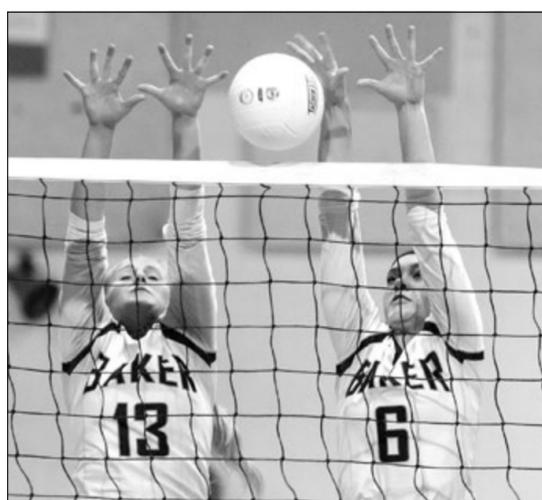
Skye Miller and Dixie Raulerson both added eight kills. Five of Miller's kills came during Baker County's 7-2 run that ended the second game, which included four straight points by Miller.

"Skye really turned it on that second set," coach Holton said. "You see with her turning it on everybody started following it too."

Four of Allyson Crossland's team-high six aces came during the first game, three of which occurred



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Dixie Raulerson (left) and Madison Barton leap to block Yulee's volley. Barton led the Lady Cats with nine kills and eight blocks. Photos by Jud Johnson



Cassidi Beaver (left) and Allyson Crossland attempt to block the ball.

during Baker County's five-point run that added cushion to their previous two-point lead. In all, the Lady Cats recorded eight aces in the first

game and 13 in the match. "When [Crossland] finds her serve she gets in a groove," the fifth-year head coach said. "That's like a lot

of our kids. When they find it and get in grooves it's hard to stop them."

Rachel Mechum had 19 assists and Cassidi Beaver added 13 assists.

Libero Kiki Carter led the ladies with 20 digs. She repeatedly dove to the court to get under the ball throughout the three games, and her effort rubbed off on the other players, coach Holton said.

"When the kids see that hustle they hustle. When they see a kid giving it their all they're going to do that exact same thing," she explained. "It only takes one kid. For our team it takes one kid to show that they are going to do that and the rest of the kids follow."

The JV Lady Cats also swept Yulee's JV squad 25-23, 25-10.

Abbey Price led the ladies with eight aces and tied with Shelby Grimes and Jae

Moore for the team lead with four kills. Five of Price's aces came during her eight-point service run that turned Baker County's comfortable lead into a lopsided score in the second game.

Mariah Green added three aces during the team's eight-point run earlier in the second game, which she sparked with a kill. She also ended the match with a kill, which gave the JV Lady Cats their largest lead of the match.

Courtney Barnard led the JV team with 14 assists and Taylor Crews had a team-high 12 digs.

Baker County is scheduled to begin District 4-6A competition on August 30 when it hosts Wolfson. The Lady Cats are set to host Clay on September 4 in non-district action.

FORMER CATS Woods makes season debut

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

With September now less than a week away, college football season is officially here. Three NAAIA programs featuring four former BCHS Wildcat football stars played in their season openers last weekend. Another former Cat made his 2018 debut following injury, and an undrafted free-agent rookie continued his battle for an NFL roster spot.

- Linebacker Bear Woods had a game-high nine tackles on August 24 in his return from injury, but his Toronto Argonauts lost 25-22 to the hosting Montreal Alouettes.

- The Argos (3-6) visit the Hamilton Tiger-Cats (4-5) in an East Division contest.

- Rookie running back Mike Boone led the Minnesota Vikings with 26 rushing yards on August 24 in his team's 21-20 home win over the Seattle Seahawks in the third preseason game.

The Vikings close the preseason on August 30 at the Tennessee Titans.

NFL teams then must reduce their roster size to 53 players by September 1 at 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. A 10-player practice squad can be established starting at 1 p.m. on September 2.

- Freshmen defensive linemen Tay Reed and Brian West both recorded three total tackles in their collegiate debuts on August 25, but their Edward Waters College Tigers comeback attempt fell just short in a 15-13 home loss to North Carolina's St. Andrews. The Tigers scored all 13 points in the fourth quarter to cut into the deficit, but St. Edwards drained the clock after Edward Waters' touchdown with 1:21 left in the game.

The Tigers host NAIA's No. 5 Lindsey Wilson College (KY) on August 31.

- Freshman defensive back Jamon Jones' Webber International Warriors opened their season on August 25 with a 42-14 road win at Kentucky Christian University.

The Warriors are scheduled to make their home debut on September 1 when they host Kentucky's Campbellsville University (0-1). The game can be streamed online at <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/webber/> at 1:30 p.m.

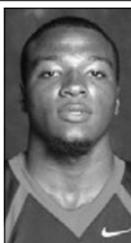
- Junior tight end Kenny Hall's No. 11 Southeastern Fire lost at home 27-26 to University of the Cumberlands in their first game of the season.

The Fire will try to rebound on September 1 when they visit North Carolina's St. Andrews University. The game will stream online at <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/sau/> at 1:30 p.m.

Jefferson: Blazers have national title potential

"We are a national championship team. As long as we do what we're supposed to do I don't think no one can really stop us."

-VSU defensive back Mondrell Jefferson



JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

The Valdosta State Blazers are used to winning.

The football program has won three Division II National Football Championships and six Gulf South Conference titles since its inception in the early 1980s. Redshirt sophomore defensive back Mondrell Jefferson said the Blazers have the potential to add more trophies to their collection in 2018.

"We are a national championship team," the former BCHS Wildcat football star from Sanderson said Tuesday. "As long as we do what we're supposed to do I don't think no one can really stop us."

After missing the playoffs last year for the first time since 2014, the Blazers have a tough road back to the postseason. Four fellow Gulf South Conference programs — West Alabama, Delta State, West Florida and

West Georgia — are coming off playoff appearances, and West Florida finished as the 2017 Division II runner-up.

Valdosta State's senior leadership could land the program another playoff appearance, Jefferson said.

"It's a group you can follow," he said. "We have a good foundation. We're going to have a strong year this year."

Jefferson is also expected to have an expanded role this season, which is scheduled to kick off on September 1 against Albany State. He enters the season as a starter on special teams and as a second string safety after recording two total tackles as a redshirt freshman.

Personally, he hopes to record five interceptions and be a sure tackler.

"I'm just trying to do the best I can at those positions and helping the team the best way I can," said Jefferson, who is studying sports physiology. "... Basically I just want to do everything

correct and just be the best I can for my team."

An improved understanding of Valdosta State's defensive schemes could help him reach those goals. He said he felt physically prepared for college football coming out of Baker County, but he didn't feel as ready mentally.

With the help of a redshirt season, he was able to gain a

better understanding of the play book.

"It feels real good just knowing now that I'm physically and mentally ready to play," the BCHS Class of 2016 graduate said. "I have nothing to lose. Everything to show. Everything to give."

Jefferson said he still keeps in touch with a handful of current Wildcat play-

ers and has advice for those who want to play football at the collegiate level.

"The main thing before you even talk to a college coach, make sure you got your GPA right and ACT scores up. That's the first thing they'll ask about," he said. "... Academically make sure you're straight or you won't even step in the door."

Lady B-Cats lose season debut

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Both BCMS Lady Bobcat volleyball teams lost their season openers on August 27 to visiting Lake Asbury.

Baker County's A-Team fell 2-1 (25-20, 8-25, 6-15) while the B-Team was swept 8-25, 18-25.

After splitting the first two sets, the A-Team nearly erased a four-point deficit in the tie-breaking Game 3 after falling behind 6-2. The Lady B-Cats cut the gap to 7-6, but a serve that went into the net sparked Lake Asbury's 8-0 match-ending run.

Lake Asbury's Haley Robinson had two kills in the final set, including the match-ender, after her 14-point Game 2 service run opened a commanding lead for the Lady Tigers. She had eight aces during the second-set run, which turned a one-point advantage into a 15-point lead. An extended Game 1 service



Abby Teague returns the volley.

run by Krista Crews helped the Lady B-Cats pull away. She had four straight aces during the team's nine-point run, which allowed Baker County to open an 11-point lead.

The Lady Tigers fought back to pull within four points late, but Peyton Martin's kill landed in the back corner of the court to seal the first set.

Crews and Abby Teague both led the Lady B-Cats with four aces. Two of Teague's aces helped Baker County equalize Game 2 at 3-all before Lake Asbury's long run.

Baker County's B-Team battled back into the second set after trailing by as many as 11 points. The B-Team pulled within six points, but miscommunication allowed Lake Asbury's final point to fall between two players.

The middle school's volleyball program is scheduled to visit Oakleaf on August 30 to conclude its opening week.

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

JV Cats shut out Ridgeview Score in all three phases of the game

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

If the BCHS JV Wildcats' season debut was any indication, the future of Baker County football is a bright one.

The JV Cats scored touchdowns offensively, defensively and on special teams on August 23, and blanked Ridgeview 44-0 at Memorial Stadium. Sophomore quarterback Carson Crawford ran for 79 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Baker County offense that totaled 204 yards.

Crawford's first touchdown, a 44-yard run in which he made two defenders miss in the backfield, opened the scoring early in the first quarter.

And it was all Baker County from there.

"He really set the tone. After he scored you could see everybody on the sideline start to get going. The defense just played hard all night," head coach Hank Farmer said. "... A lot of these guys played really well tonight. It was a team effort by everyone."

Baker County's dominant defense limited Ridgeview to just 12 total yards and didn't allow a first down until late in the fourth quarter. The JV Panthers managed just 10 plays of positive yardage, four of which came on their final possession in the closing minutes of the running clock.

Freshman Ronnie Ellis returned an interception for a touchdown, which gave the JV Cats a 16-0 first-quarter lead. Javontea Elliott also had a sack.



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Javontea Elliott hits the Ridgeview player in the JV Wildcat football team's 44-0 win on August 23.

Photos by Jud Johnson

Ellis and Elliott are among the 33 freshmen on the JV squad's 45-player roster.

"That's incredible," said



Javontea Elliott (left) and Joseph Stafford wrap up the ball carrier.



Ronnie Ellis

coach Farmer of the defensive performance, "especially when you got a lot of ninth graders starters on defense. We're young."

The JV Cats turned the game into a blowout with 28 points in the second quarter. Freshmen Max Geiger and Noah Ray ran for second-quarter scores of 4 and 10 yards, respectively, and Crawford added an 18-yard touchdown run.

After Ridgeview went three-and-out following Crawford's score, freshman



Jamil Jones runs the ball.

Jaymodd Ruise returned a punt 53 yards to the end zone down the home sideline.

Coach Farmer said he knew the JV players were special after seeing the field late in the Kickoff Classic on August 17 at Baldwin.

"We have a lot of potential. We just have to keep getting better and better," he said. "The sky's the limit

for this group. If everybody sticks together, work out, make sure they got grades right, make sure they got everything in line to play football, we'll be nice in the future. These guys will be really good."

The JV Cats are scheduled to visit Clay on August 30.

Coach: Swim team to be 'competitive, respectable'

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

An undefeated regular season. A program-record number of swimmers at the regional meet. A best-ever showing at the Class 2A state meet.

The BCHS Wildcat swim team had its most successful season in program history in 2017. Head coach Jonathan Mobley hopes the highs carry over into the new season, which is scheduled to start on August 30 in a home tri-meet against Baldwin and Columbia. The first event is set for 4:30 p.m. at the YMCA pool, and entry is free.

Coach Mobley said Baker County once again has the potential to be perfect in the regular season as long as the swimmers work hard in practice.

"We're going to be competitive," he said following practice on August 23. "We're still going to be competitive, respectable. We ain't going to be a pushover

for anybody."

The Cats will rely on a mix of veteran swimmers and newcomers as the roster is split nearly evenly between the two, coach Mobley said. Returning state qualifiers in sophomore Braeden Knight and seniors Trent Mobley and Mason Platto are expected to lead the boys team.

In addition to the returning state swimmers, Baker County has about a half-dozen other competitors back in 2018 who swam in the Region 1-2A meet. Among those are Loriann Bliss, a senior who has the potential to become the program's first-ever female swimmer to qualify for the Class 2A competition.

"Loriann Bliss was not too far from it last year," he said. Bliss advanced to last season's Region 1-2A meet in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles. "If she will get her mind right and her focus sharp she's got as good a chance as anybody."

The swim team has taken a step forward in near-

ly every season as it enters its seventh year. Having a Lady Cats competing at state would show the program is continuing to move in the right direction, coach Mobley said.

"I'd love to see a girl make it to state," he said. "We've gotten the boys there. We've gotten boys relays there. I'd like to continue that having boys swimming individual and relays there, and we can do that. It'd be nice to see some of the young ladies start stepping up and advancing. We get more and more going to regionals, now we've got to get somebody over the hump and get them to state. That to me would be a nice step."

Freshman Mady Bell could also be that person. Coach Mobley expects a successful career from the incoming swimmer.

"She has a lot of potential. Strong swimmer," coach Mobley said. "I look for good things out of her not only this year but in the years to come."

The regular season, which includes larger meets such as the Byron Plapp Invitational at Bolles and the FSPA meet in Stuart, is designed to prepare the Cats for the state series. The state series is scheduled to begin on October 31 with the District 2-2A meet and continue November 2 with the Region 1-2A meet, both of which will be held at the Cecil Aquatics Center.

The Class 2A state meet is slated for November 17 in Stuart.



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BCHS Wildcat swimmers are in position to dive off the block.

Photos by Jon Shumake



Domenick Endel swims the butterfly late in the team's practice on August 23.

Coach Mobley again expects the Cats to vie for a district championship after the

boys finished second in 2017 to Stanton. Baker County scored the most points in

swimming events, but the Blue Devils got the edge based on diving results.

"I'll look for us to be in the mix. We'll have a chance," coach Mobley said. "Obviously we'll be behind the eight ball right from jump street without having a dive aspect to our team. That is what it is. We can't make excuses about it. We can't sugar coat it. We're just going to have to do everything we can on the swimming part to make up for that."



Cheyenne Powell takes a breath while swimming.



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Quarterback Alex Bowen runs through the tackle attempts in Baker County's 14-13 loss to St. Augustine on August 24.

Photos by Jud Johnson

Cats fall by 1 to Yellow Jackets

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After dismissing the coaches and JV players following Monday's practice, BCHS Wildcat head coach Jamie Rodgers kept the varsity team on the field for an apology.

He took responsibility for the play call he felt allowed St. Augustine to escape with a 14-13 victory in Week 1 at Memorial Stadium.

Three of St. Augustine's four interceptions came in the fourth quarter of the season-opening game on August 24. Safety Dequan Stanley intercepted a third-down pass near the goal line in the closing minutes that ended Baker County's best chance to take the late lead.

The decision to pass the ball from inside the 10 yard line stuck with coach Rodgers.

"That particular game, I just got through talking with the team, I cost us the game the other night with that third-down play call," he said Monday. "It was ill advised. Stupid. Just the worst call I've ever been apart of and it was my fault."

"A guy that's supposed to be really good at what he does should never make that call and put his team in that predicament ... and I did. That loss was on me the other night."

Stanley's interception came one snap after Baker County (0-1) ran the ball following a penalty that backed the Cats up to the 8 yard line. The Yellow Jackets (1-0) had all 11 defensive players near the line of scrimmage on

the second-down run, coach Rodgers explained, which gave him the idea to be aggressive on third down.

Instead of another run to set up a possible field goal attempt, which could have given the Cats a two-point lead, he wanted to take advantage of the loaded box with a passing play.

The decision didn't work out.

"[Running the ball] probably was the thought of most people in the crowd

and it should've been my thought," coach Rodgers said. "... I just wanted to be aggressive at that point and I thought it was a good play call to the look. He's wide open if they line up the way they did the play before because nobody could have covered Will (Keinath) from 1 yard off



Chris Smith (left) and Tracy White

of him. It was a poor decision no doubt about that."

Muddy field conditions from an afternoon storm bogged down both offenses and made points scarce. The teams combined for just 350 yards and converted only six of 32 combined third-down attempts.

St. Augustine was limited to just one first down in the second half and totaled just 161 yards of offense. The Yellow Jackets also had three turnovers.

"Our defense played great I thought the other night, especially having some guys going both ways in that mud hole," coach Rodgers said.

Baker County had an equally difficult time moving the ball. The Cats had 189 yards and were led by senior running back John Green's

75 rushing yards. The team was 0-for-5 on fourth-down conversions, which included Jaden McDowell's interception that sealed the game in the closing seconds.

The inability to sustain offense caused Baker County to miss multiple scoring opportunities after the team started half of its 14 drives inside St. Augustine territory.

Senior Maurice Moore twice set up the Cats inside the red zone with a long punt return and a fourth-quarter interception return. The latter came off a tipped pass, and the ensuing drive ultimately resulted in Stanley's third-down interception.

Baker County also had a chance to take the lead midway through the third quarter, but a penalty forced the offense into a third-and-goal situation from the 12 yard line. Stanley broke up the third down pass in the end zone, forcing the Cats to settle for a 29-yard field.

Kicker Conner Waite was 2-for-2 on field goal attempts, including the field goal that cut the deficit to the final one-point difference with 5:01 left in the third quarter. He also made a 25-yard first-quarter attempt that gave Baker County an early 3-0 advantage.

"He's got a lot of confidence, especially now after that," coach Rodgers said. "He should have got a chance to win the game the other night."

A Baker County penalty also helped the Yellow Jackets take the lead for good. The Cats jumped offside on fourth down early in the second quarter, which resulted in a new set of downs for St. Augustine.

Quarterback Sammy Edwards took advantage of the new chance. He connected with Michael Early on a 17-yard touchdown pass, which was the first of two second-quarter scoring connections between the two.

"You could not have picked them at a worse time than ours," coach Rodgers said of Baker County's six penalties.

Edwards also threw a 40-yard bomb to Edwards, which extended St. Augustine's lead to 14-3 midway through the second quarter.

"They made two passes for touchdowns that ended up being the difference," coach Rodgers said.

Baker County's offense found enough rhythm late in the first half to cut St. Augustine's lead to one possession. Quarterback Alex Bowen hit Keinath in the back of the end zone on a pass that floated just over the St. Augustine defender.

"Will runs so good. He's one of the fastest guys on the team. He's got the capability to get behind people," coach Rodgers said. "That was a beautiful throw by Alex. ... When conditions are better our passing game will be where it's supposed to be I think."



A swarm of Baker County defenders including Chris Smith (23) and Chase Crews (20) bring down the ball carrier.

Hopes to rebound at Ed White

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Following a Week 1 loss to St. Augustine in 2017, a bounce-back win over Ed White sparked the BCHS Wildcat football team's 13-game winning streak and run to the Class 5A championship game.

Head coach Jamie Rodgers is hoping for something similar this year. The Cats are scheduled to visit the Commanders (1-0) on August 31.

"Personally I'm ready to get back out on the field and do some things better," coach Rodgers said following Monday's practice. "Last year it gave us some confidence beating [Ed White] 28-7 ... and then we were able to beat Ribault who we knew was a good team, and that propelled us on to other things. Hopefully that will happen again."

Ed White is coming off three straight three-wins seasons, but with 15 returning starters the program is hoping to

turn the corner in head coach Kevin Sullivan's third year. Coach Sullivan has a history of success with a 188-97 career record that included stints at Jackson and Atlantic Coast.

The Commanders appeared to be on track for the turnaround with their 38-0 Week 1 shutout over Westside. Senior running back Isaiah Flowers rushed for 216 yards and five touchdowns in the first half.

"This guy can really run. He's fast. He breaks tackles," coach Rodgers said. "You got to gang tackle him and tackle him all the way to the ground because he'll bounce off."

Ed White's defense forced seven turnovers, including three interceptions by Troy commit Shawnell Hall, and recorded six sacks against Westside. Senior linebacker Alex Anthony led the team with 12 tackles and two sacks, while Omari Fiffer, a three-star prospect with 17 scholarship offers, added seven tackles and a sack.

Junior defensive back Tamichael Shellman and Cedric Woodson also had interceptions, and Woodson returned his 102 yards for Ed White's final touchdown of the game.

After committing four turnovers against St. Augustine, coach Rodgers said the Cats will have to take better care of the ball to rebound against the Commanders.

"Their defense is very opportunistic," he said. "... Some teams don't have seven (take-aways) all year and they have seven in one game. We need to hang onto the football, protect it, block who we're supposed to block and we'll be fine."



John Green tries to power his way through the defense.

BAKER COUNTY VS. ED WHITE

August 31 ↪ 7 p.m.

at Commander Stadium

1700 Old Middleburg Rd. Jacksonville