



Swimmers top opener Page 14

Wildcats notch first win on road

Page 15



THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

89TH YEAR | VOLUME 20

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

AT A GLANCE

THINGS TO DO

SEPTEMBER 6

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Council on Aging
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. Days: Mondays & Thursdays Dates: 9/6 - 10/29/2018 Cost: Free. For registration and information call Northeast Florida AHEC (904) 482-0189.

SEPTEMBER 6

BCHS swim vs Suwannee

See page 3

MORE NEWS



Ladies win 5-set thriller See page 14

Go vote ...

Who do you predict will be the next governor of Florida?

DeSantis 75%

Gillum 25%

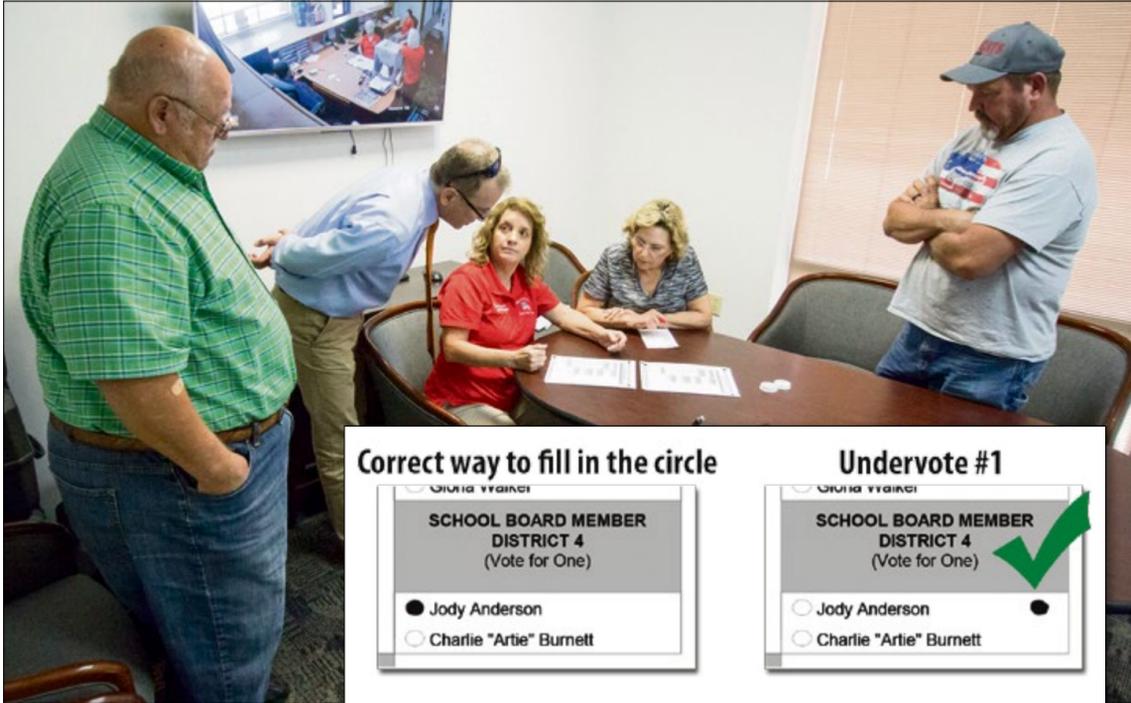
bakercountypress.com

Better cellular service coming?

Page 3



Recount drops lead to three



Burnett wins third school board term

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Elections officials spent four hours August 31 recounting ballots in the District 4 school board race between Charlie "Artie" Burnett and Jody Anderson but the result didn't change.

"It was a very good race and it was a very hard-fought race," said Mr. Burnett later that day. "Every place I went [Mr. Anderson] was there and I'm sure there were places I didn't get to ... I told him I appreciated the clean race. I don't mind having a hard-fought race, but I don't want a negative race. I'm not about that."

Five votes separated the candidates on election night with Mr. Burnett coming out on top. His lead shrank three days later by two votes when the canvassing board -- elections supervisor Nita

Crawford, county commissioner Cathy Rhoden and county judge Joey Williams -- examined three undervote



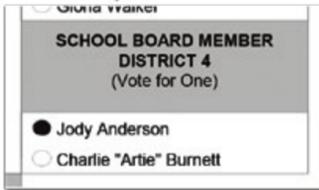
Elections worker Debbie Cain scans ballots for recount as elections supervisor Nita Crawford looks on.

ballots in the race and voted unanimously to accept two of them due to the clarity of the voter's intention when marking the ballots.

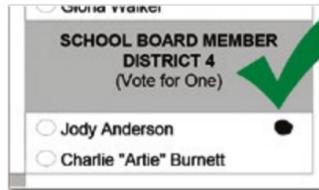
Both were votes for Mr. Anderson. Undervotes are votes that are either left blank or not

clearly marked and consistent with other votes on the same ballot. The undervote ballot the canvassing board rejected had only a tiny dot

Correct way to fill in the circle



Undervote #1



Undervote #2



Undervote #3



Top: Candidates Artie Burnett (far left) and Jody Anderson (far right) watch as canvassing board members review undervote ballots. Bottom: Examples of undervotes cast during the primary. Two examples on the right were accepted as valid votes. Example on the left was not.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON/ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA PREVATT

Arrests for cooking meth in shed

JON SHUMAKE

A traffic stop for an expired tag the late afternoon of August 29 resulted in the arrest of two men on multiple drug charges, including felony meth production.

Driver Michael Burns, 36, who had addresses in both Macclenny and East Palatka listed in police records, and Thomas Alford, 40, of Glen St. Mary were taken into custody after passenger Brandi Estep said the two had been cooking meth in a shed at her Blue Water Court residence.

Detective Thomas Dyal noted a strong chemical smell permeated from inside the shed. Detectives found eight items that are used in the making of methamphetamine, including three -- a glass plate, plastic bottle and coffee filters -- that later tested positive for meth residue.

Ms. Estep said during an audio-taped



Michael Burns



Thomas Alford

interview that Mr. Burns and her brother Mr. Alford had been cooking meth in her shed without permission.

Mr. Alford admitted to purchasing Sudafed about 10 times for Mr. Burns to cook meth in the shed. Mr. Alford also admitted to witnessing meth being cooked inside the shed on numerous occasions, purchasing batteries to cook it and ingesting the cooked drug on numerous occasions.

Detective Dyal tested the residue from the glass plate and coffee filter

with positive results.

The sheriff's office report listed charges of both production of meth and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, also a felony.

Detective Ricky Crews stopped Mr. Burns about 5 p.m. in the area of North Lowder Street and Golf Club Drive after learning of the expired tag. A check revealed Mr. Burns' license was suspended six times.

A K-9 free air sniff resulted in a positive alert for narcotics. A search revealed a cigarette pack containing a used syringe in Mr. Burns' shorts pocket.

Mr. Burns said he asked Ms. Estep to hand him the syringe when they were being stopped. Ms. Estep, the owner of the 2001 Ford F150, said she had never seen the syringe, according to police.

Mr. Burns was arrested for driving on a suspended license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Mother of four dies in accident

JOEL ADDINGTON
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Macclenny resident and animal lover Lydia Pons was ejected and killed in a single-vehicle rollover accident on U.S. 301 in Bradford County about 12:30 a.m. on Labor Day.

Her four children, ages 2 months up to 7, were hospitalized after suffering minor injuries in the



Lydia Pons

wreck that occurred just north of CR 221, according to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

Mrs. Pons, 30, was the owner of Bed, Baths & Barks, a pet boarding and grooming business in Glen St. Mary. She was known for her support of the county animal shelter and served as a judge for the second annual Dog Days of Baker contests last April. She also volunteered with Baker County 4H.

Brittany Lauramore, an employee at Bed, Baths & Barks, told News4Jax Tuesday she was more than just a boss.

"She did her best to be a best friend anytime you needed her for anything, whether it was work-related or a personal matter," Ms. Lauramore told the news station. "She would always know if something was wrong. She could tell if you had something bothering you. She would pull you off to the side, say, 'Hey what's going on? What can I do to help you?'"

FHP said Monday evening that the accident was still under investigation but preliminary information and physical evidence pointed to Mrs. Pons, for an unknown reason, losing control of the 2007 Chevy truck as it changed lanes.

"The truck began to rotate in a clockwise motion as it traveled off of the paved portion of the roadway on the right (west) grass shoulder," said FHP. "The truck began to overturn along with impacting a fence, multiple trees and other objects within a residence's yard."

Ms. Pons was thrown from the truck and pronounced dead at the scene by Bradford County EMS. All of the children were taken to UF Health in Gainesville with non-life

See page 3



Invites all consumer-members to the

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Recount: Burnett wins

From page 1

— 2464 for Mr. Burnett, the incumbent, and 2459 for Mr. Anderson, his second-time challenger.

“You’re nervous because you’ve never been there,” recalled Mr. Burnett of his emotions during the recount. “You don’t know what’s going to come up. In the end, it all made perfect sense. You didn’t know how many out of that 178 that had the same kind of situation as the two -- when it was obvious what people intended they just didn’t do it correctly. You just don’t know how many are going to be like that.”

“... Outwardly I was trying to be very calm, but on the inside, I was pretty nervous. And I know Jody was pretty hopeful for that same reason ...”

Two days after the recount Mr. Anderson said he intends to run for the seat yet again in four years. Losing by such a small margin hurt but he accepted it as God’s will.

“It was fine. I accepted it,” he said of the outcome. “I went with it because it was in God’s design. I put it His hands, so I accept it.”

He intends to continue engaging students, parents, teachers and others involved in education locally.

“I look forward to it,” said Mr. Anderson about running again. “There are a few things I can do to show people I’m interested in helping the school district, beyond being involved with FFA and things like that.”

He plans to continue attending school board meetings and voicing his opinion. He wants to seek board certifications as well. “... Anything to help students and teachers and everyone on down the line, from the drivers who get them to school to the people who get the schools ready for them.”

Ms. Crawford, the elections supervisor, said that while the vote tally changed after the recount, the voting machines, purchased in 2014, performed well. Voter error, rather, was the source of the changes, which only impacted two of the 178 undervote ballots or 1.1 percent.

The mandatory recount was triggered because the margin of victory for Mr.

Burnett on election night was less than one-half of one percent. It began at 10 a.m. with about half a dozen county elections workers feeding all 5000-plus ballots from each of the county’s nine precincts, plus early voting and absentee ballots, into voting machines at the supervisor’s office. The machines were set to only scan for the school board race.

On election night, the precinct ballots were sealed in bags and brought to the elections office after polls closed. They remained sealed until last Friday morning when elections staff opened the bags, scanned the ballots and then re-bagged and sealed them. The undervote ballots were separated out during the recount.

After the scanned ballots were totaled, canvassing board members and the candidates then reviewed the 178 undervote ballots by hand, setting aside the three ballots where the school board race was not left blank. Canvassing board members then examined the three undervote ballots in question and unanimously agreed to accept the two ballots they believed were valid votes.

The last county-wide race recount came 36 years ago when Macey “Cute” Starling defeated incumbent county commissioner Joe Rhoden by a slim two-vote margin, *The Press’* archives show. His one-vote lead after an election in October 7, 1982 led to the recount.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON
The driver of this Chevy Aveo was critically injured on 90 near Olustee last week.

Lake City driver seriously injured

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A 19-year-old Lake City woman was critically injured the afternoon of August 31 when her car ran into the tree line on the north side of U.S. 90 west of the interchange near Sanderson.

An infant inside the 2005 Chevy Aveo was not harmed, witnesses said. However, driver Briana Collins was flown to UF Health in Jacksonville for treatment of serious injuries, according to the Florida Highway Patrol’s (FHP) Trooper Kevin Frost.

He said in his report the Chevy was heading east on 90 about two miles west of the interchange with I-10 when for an unknown reason the driver traveled off the roadway and onto the grass eastbound shoulder before reentering the roadway and losing control the car.

It traveled across the westbound lane, Trooper Frost said, and onto the westbound shoulder before hitting a large tree on its right side about 3:15 p.m.

The 1-year-old child passenger was released to family members of the driver at the scene.

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The Baker County Press Weather

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Scattered T-storms
High: 89 Low: 73

Friday
Scattered T-storms
High: 87 Low: 72

Saturday
Isolated T-storms
High: 89 Low: 74

Sunday
Scattered T-storms
High: 90 Low: 75

Monday
Scattered T-storms
High: 88 Low: 77

Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 94 Low: 79

Wednesday
Sunny
High: 92 Low: 81

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Callahan 89 / 74
Jasper 90 / 73
Macclenny 89 / 73
Watertown 89 / 73
High Springs 89 / 74
St. Augustine 85 / 76
Baldwin 89 / 74
Starke 89 / 73
Jacksonville 89 / 77
Atlantic Beach 85 / 77
Fernandina Beach 86 / 76

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	7:08 a.m.	7:45 p.m.
Friday	7:08 a.m.	7:43 p.m.
Saturday	7:09 a.m.	7:42 p.m.
Sunday	7:09 a.m.	7:41 p.m.
Monday	7:10 a.m.	7:40 p.m.
Tuesday	7:10 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
Wednesday	7:11 a.m.	7:37 p.m.

New 9/9
First 9/16
Full 9/24
Last 10/2

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	6.67 ft.	+0.47 ft.
Macclenny	7.16 ft.	-0.47 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	9:36-11:36	10:06-12:06
Fri	10:36-12:36	--
Sat	11:05-1:05	11:34-1:34
Sun	12:02-2:02	12:30-2:30
Mon	12:56-2:56	1:23-3:23
Tue	1:49-3:49	2:14-4:14
Wed	2:39-4:39	3:04-5:04

Weather History

Sept. 6, 1987 - Severe thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tue, 8/28	90	72	89/70	0.00"	2.61"
Wed, 8/29	91	72	89/70	0.06"	1.60"
Thu, 8/30	91	70	89/69	2.28"	+1.01"
Fri, 8/31	93	70	89/69	0.01"	81.7°
Sat, 9/1	95	72	89/69	0.01"	79.1°
Sun, 9/2	90	72	89/69	0.25"	+2.6°
Mon, 9/3	93	73	89/69	0.00"	

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

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THINGS TO DO

From page 1

4:30 p.m.
Baker County YMCA,
98 W Lowder St.
The BCHS swim team hosts Suwannee.

BCHS Lady Wildcat volleyball vs Westside
5:30 p.m.

Baker County High School
1 Wildcat Dr.

The Lady Cats try to stay unbeaten in District 4-6A play when they host Westside.

BCMS Lady Bobcat volleyball vs Lakeside
5:30 p.m.

Baker County Middle School
211 Jonathan St.

BCHS JV Wildcat football vs Mandarin
6 p.m.

Memorial Stadium,
169 W. Shuey Ave.

SEPTEMBER 7

Fall vegetable garden class

10 a.m. - noon

Fall vegetable gardening is the subject of the class on September 7 from 10 a.m.-noon. It offers basic gardening techniques, raised bed gardening, growing organically and tips for growing our favorite fall veggies. The \$10 per person fee includes take-home information and a seed variety pack of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce and radish. Pre-register for the classes by calling 259-3520 or online at: <https://fall-veggie-gardening.eventbrite.com>

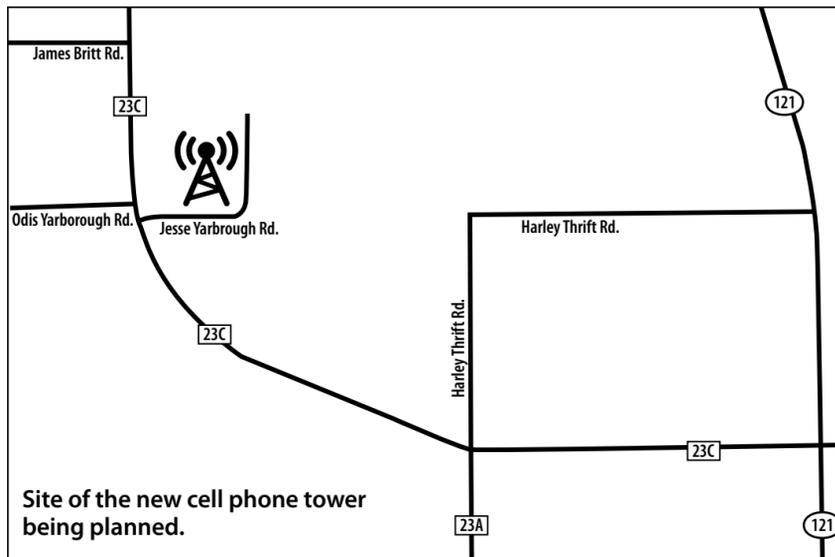
SEPTEMBER 10

BCHS Lady Wildcat volleyball vs Bishop Snyder

5:30 p.m.

Baker County High School, 1 Wildcat Dr.

Press Ad Deadline:
Monday 5:00 PM



Macedonia cell tower?

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A new cell phone tower is being planned on Jessie Yarbrough Road in Macedonia and early indications are it will improve cellular service in an area of the county where it's sorely needed.

Brian W. Yarbrough says he's been in discussions with a consultant from Arizona with the firm Anbere Consulting who is working to build the tower for AT&T. He said he may end up leasing a 2500-square-foot piece of his more than 9 acres for construction and operation of the tower but a deal has not yet been finalized.

"They're trying to get better service there in our area so we have reception," Mr. Yarbrough said last week after another firm working on the project published a legal advertisement in *The Press* seeking public comments regarding any sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or any sites eligible to be listed, that may be impacted by the planned tower.

"Hopefully that would happen," said Ryan Malek, environmental division manager for the second North Carolina firm, Tower Engineering Professionals, about the potential for improved service.

But neither Mr. Malek or Mr. Yarbrough could say whether residents with other non-AT&T carriers could

get better reception in that area as a result of the project.

AT&T could lease space on the tower to other carriers, which has happened with other towers here the past, said Darryl Register, director of the Chamber of Commerce and Baker County Development Commission that owns land with a cell tower near the health department in Macclenny.

"That's an area that desperately needs a cell tower," he said, adding there are many variables involved in lease deals among telecommunication companies.

"There are companies that build these towers that lease it to anybody," he said.

"The ones I've been associated with or aware of they can be a really good deal or a really bad deal, depending on how it works out," said Mr. Register.

And sometimes the planned towers don't get built at all.

Mr. Register said someone approached his parents about the possibility of building a tower on their land, but after the initial interest, nothing more came of it.

Mr. Yarbrough and AT&T have a tentative agreement at this point, but the proposed tower is still in its permitting stage.

As of late last week, the county had not received any permit applications or other correspondence regarding the tower plans, beyond a

power of attorney document between Mr. Yarbrough and Anbere Consulting's David Michael in Arizona.

"They've not finalized it yet. It's still in permitting," said Mr. Yarbrough. "I was contacted when they were looking for land in that area back in February. I met with them and signed a tentative agreement. They've been doing surveying, testing the land, all these environmental things..."

The tower is proposed to be 190 feet tall. Mr. Yarbrough said it should look similar to the light poles on the interstate and described it as "an aluminum pole with their dish on it."

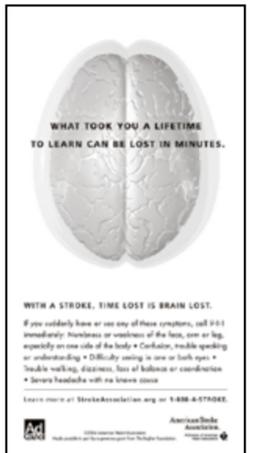
Mother of 4 killed

From page 1

threatening injuries to undergo medical evaluations.

"Next of kin of the victim has been located and there is family with the minor children at this time," said FHP.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to support the children and their father Jeremy Pons. More than \$11,000 had been pledged as of Tuesday evening.



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LAND PLANNING AGENCY

Planner: Lack of utilities holds back growth

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Baker County and Clay County were both rural and sparsely populated a little more than 30 years ago, with the highest concentration of residents in each county clustered around one major town: Macclenny in Baker and Orange Park in Clay.

Today, the description still applies to Baker County,

which has struggled to grow much since its 2010 population of 25,168, while Clay County is a thriving, growing community with a mixture of residential, commercial and industrial developments approaching a population of 200,000.

While the reasons for one county's rapid growth and the other's stagnation are numerous, one thing happened in Clay County in 1994

“Once you put that infrastructure (water and wastewater utilities) in it becomes a magnet for growth.”

—Planning consultant Susan Fraser



that sparked economic development in a very big way. That was the year the Clay County Utility Authority was created.

If Baker County is to grow, a similar plan of action to finance and construct water and sewer infrastructure may be necessary, says Susan Fraser, a private contractor who was Clay County's chief planner during the boom years of the 1990s and currently is serving in a similar role as acting director of Baker County's community development department.

“Clay County set up an independent authority to build and manage water and sewer plants. That is where the growth in that county comes from,” Ms. Fraser told members of the county's Land Planning Agency during a meeting to discuss the county's comprehensive plan update on August 23.

Conversely, she said, the failure to conduct a water and sewer utility study, which was recently recommended in an economic development master plan for the Town of Sanderson, may be what's “holding Baker County back.”

“Once you put that infrastructure (water and wastewater utilities) in it becomes a magnet for growth,” Ms. Fraser told the board.

Board members agreed that infrastructure — particularly utilities, storm water

drainage and paved roads — is the key to long-term growth and development.

Glen Patten, the advisory citizen panel's longest-serving member, agreed the county should “look into that” and reminded those present that a water and wastewater treatment system was recommended as a priority issue in the Sanderson master plan study being conducted by Ed Preston, a contractor and former Baker County planning director.

“So, you agree that's an impediment (to development)?” Ms. Fraser asked the panel regarding the absence of any utility infrastructure in the county.

“Oh, yes, definitely!” said Mr. Patten, as other members nodded in agreement.

On the issue of storm water management, the board agreed that one of the paramount concerns of residents in Baker County is flooding, particularly in areas where dirt roads are prevalent, which is just about everywhere throughout the county's 589 square miles.

Mr. Patten noted that the county has failed to implement multiple goals, objectives and stated policies in the current 10-element comprehensive plan, which expires in 2020, including the adoption of a storm water master plan in the Public Facilities Element, which was one of three on the agenda for discussion at the August 23 meeting.

Policy D.1.6.1 contains nine measures intended to address the issue of storm water drainage, starting with completion of a storm water master plan, though no date was set for that to occur.

Ms. Fraser said it's possible the current plan tried to accomplish too much and encouraged the LPA and county commission to focus on a smaller number of more realistically achievable goals in the new comprehensive plan.

“I would rather have two things in one element and let everything else ride, rather than have a bunch of new things and don't get any of them done,” she said.

For example, she suggested setting a specific target date for the adoption of a storm water master plan with concrete goals and objectives to be reached every

two years leading up to completion by the sixth year of the updated comprehensive plan, which must be submitted to the Florida Department of Opportunity next February.

She also made other recommendations, as well, such as changing the wording in a section of the current plan that bans development in flood plain areas but is “not being enforced and is not required by (state) law.”

Since Gov. Rick Scott became governor in 2010 much of the state's previous controls over local comprehensive plans for development and future growth have been eliminated and left mainly up to local governments to carry out, Ms. Fraser told the panel.

“Most of this is not required by the state anymore to be in the plan,” she said, adding that comp plans are “to encourage compliance, but enforcement authority is in the LDRs (Land Development Regulations).”

When Ms. Fraser asked board members how they would assess progress made toward goals and objectives in the current comp plan, something she had asked them to think about at a previous board meeting, the consensus seemed to be not too satisfied.

Mr. Patten, who obviously had given quite a bit of thought to the matter, provided a three-page typewritten response in which he said: “In general, the County marginally implements the goals, objectives and policies (GOPs) of any of the elements within the Comprehensive Plan.”

“Where the GOP states that the County will ‘comply with State requirements (many of which have been stricken from state law in the past eight years),’ the County does well, however for GOPs where the County states that it will implement something specific the County seldom has met its plan.”

Mr. Patten also listed numerous examples, including the lack of any county-owned water or sewer systems, “though Goal D.1 states, ‘Create Public Facilities to Meet Current and Future Growth.’”

Regarding the Recreation and Open Space element, which Mr. Patten said was “an important element for Baker County given the vast open spaces and economic tourism potential,” he said little has been done to take advantage of the opportunities available.

“The GOPs are important, yet with minimal following of the GOPs much of this opportunity is lost,” Mr. Patten said in his written assessment.

He further listed the following comments concerning the county's economic development goals and quality of life goals for the future:

“Public Facilities. It would be nice if we had specific plans for construction of public facilities at designated locations, even if heavy on assumptions such as population densities. Our plan gives the impression that a developer can come in anywhere and we will ‘coordinate and comply.’”

“Conservation. There are places where our terminology for water sources is different from the state requirement. In both Objective E.1.2 and Policy E.1.2.4 we use the term water ‘resources.’ This element does well in protection of wetlands.

“Recreation and Open Space. If the plans for development of the numerous recreational sites, trails, etc. are implemented, then the quality of life and potential for economic development will probably increase. Is this the vision for the future?”

Greg Sheppard, the second-longest serving LPA member and a former board chair, often speaks of the need for economic development in Baker County while also trying to maintain the county's rural attributes, such as large lots and spread out housing developments.

At the recent board meeting Mr. Sheppard maintained that position and stressed the need for accountability in the comp plan.

“We need a score card to track our progress toward achieving goals and objectives,” he said. “This is our road map for where we want to take the community.”

So far, the LPA board has reviewed three elements: Public Facilities, Conservation and Recreation and Open Space. The next two to be addressed on September 13 are: Housing and Intergovernmental Coordination. The remaining elements — Future Land Use, Traffic Circulation, Housing, Capital Improvements, Economic Development and Public Schools — will be discussed over the next few months.

After the LPA completes its work on comp plan revisions the document will be sent to the county commission for final review and approval in January before being forwarded to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity by February 13.

Looking forward, Ms. Fraser told the board she welcomed comments and suggestions for changes in current land development regulations governing subdivisions, zoning, road access management, dirt roads and other related topics.

One thing she said the county needs to consider is the fact that population estimates in the current comp plan have fallen far short of projections and recent demographic data reflect slow growth and an aging populace over the next two decades.

Population by age projections prepared by the Shimberg Housing Center at the University of Florida show Baker County's population rising only to 28,579 by 2040, with the highest growth rate (265 percent) in the 75 and older category.

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ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD

\$6K evaluation sought

UF offers discount to county

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The county and its Animal Advisory Committee are attempting to raise \$6000 in donations to fund a deeply-discounted evaluation of operations at the Steel Bridge Road animal shelter.

Consultant Dr. Cynda Crawford of the University of Florida's shelter medicine program agreed to conduct the normally \$30,000 comprehensive evaluation at the lower rate on August 16 in an email to Dr. Michal Harris, owner of Sixth Street Veterinary Hospital and a member of the committee.

"Since Baker County is small and relatively close-by," wrote Dr. Crawford, "I think we can do this for \$6000."

She said that would include preparation work with the shelter, a site visit, a report with recommended short- and long-term actions and discussions with county shelter staff and the advisory committee.

Dr. Harris emailed county manager Kennie Downing, who chairs the committee, the following day.

"It's super nice that they will discount the regular fee ... I have worked with Dr.

Cynda Crawford before and have known her for over 10 years. I think I could be a good liaison for the committee with the UF service," said the UF alum.

Early this week Mrs. Downing said the county has not budgeted for the evaluation so the committee agreed on August 28 to seek the public's support in the effort.

"As Dr. Mike said, this is a good way for people to put their money where their mouth is," said the county manager, adding that the funding drive will be posted to social media as well.

In other business that evening, the committee discussed a \$50,000 grant application from PetSmart to fund a largely free spay and neuter clinic. The application was due two days later.

Mrs. Downing said the free spay and neuter surgeries will be aimed at pets of the elderly and others with low incomes, particularly pets that have already had several litters, and then the general public at a discounted rate.

The grant application requests 240 spay or neuter surgeries to be completed by Dr. Harris and fellow Macclenny veterinarian Dr. Joe Harrison using vouchers.

According to the application for consulting services from UF, county animal control has a budget of \$117,427 and accepted 413 cats, 522 dogs and 19 other animals into the shelter in 2017.

That's 954 animals in all, of which just 481 were placed through adoptions, transfers to other facilities

or returns to their owners.

The remainder were euthanized.

Roughly 12 cats and 35 dogs are held at the shelter on a daily basis, the application also shows.

In other news, the shelter's adoption page on the county website is not currently functioning, said Mrs. Downing, but new software is expected next month to alleviate the problem.

County commissioners have yet to approve higher adoption fees proposed by the committee to cover the cost of the software, which is \$4 per adoption, but commissioners did discuss the increase during a budget workshop last June.

Ms. Downing said she hopes to present a revised ordinance for commissioners to consider increasing adoption and other fees for animal control but she's waiting for input from the City of Macclenny so as to ensure the same fines and fees apply in both the city and county jurisdictions.

If that doesn't happen soon, she said, the changes may need to be approved piecemeal.

During the July committee meeting, the panel discussed options for a horse vaccination clinic next spring when most horses are born to protect them from deadly mosquito-borne viruses and rabies.

"It's pretty sad," said Dr. Harris, when young horses are infected and then euthanized to spare them from suffering.

Drives wrong direction on I-10

JON SHUMAKE

A Tennessee man was arrested in the pre-dawn hours of August 30 after he was caught traveling in the wrong direction on Interstate 10.

Trooper K.A. Hilliard stopped Tobias Thibeault, 47, of Lebanon, TN in the west county about 4 a.m. after receiving numerous complaints about him driving eastbound in the inside westbound lane of the interstate. The trooper initiated a rolling roadblock across the westbound lanes to alert traffic and stop Mr. Thibeault's vehicle.

The suspect said he was traveling with another vehicle and was making sure the "road was safe," but no other vehicles were observed to be with him. His vehicle also had damage to its left side consistent with sideswiping a guardrail, but no hit and run reports were made and Mr. Thibeault said he noticed the "scrape" a few days prior, according to the FHP report.

Mr. Thibeault said he believed he was on I-24 in Tennessee after he left Jacksonville between 8-9 p.m. on August 29. Trooper Hilliard noted there were no signs of alcohol or drug impairment, but Mr. Thibeault said he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and that he hadn't taken his medication for the previous 48 hours because he left it at home.

Witness Rodney Coble said he saw Mr. Thibeault heading eastbound on I-10 west at the 317 mile marker. Chris Wyland said he saw the vehicle traveling eastbound the wrong direction at the 314 mile marker in Columbia County at a very slow speed.

In another incident, Jack Hodges Jr., 49, of Hampton, FL was arrested on August 28 on a local warrant for failure to appear for arraignment for driving on a suspended or revoked license. He was cited for the offense on July 3.

Arc needs help

The ARC North Florida seeks mature and responsible volunteers in a number of roles to assist the agency that assists persons with disabilities.

The roles include, manning booths during community events, fund-raising projects, working telephones, envelope stuffing and clerical tasks. Certain activities can even be done from home.

Contact Quinn Ban at 259-2509 in Baker County, or 386-688-0385. Arc's Macclenny office is located at 678 W. U.S. 90.

Complaints filed for failing to pay

The sheriff's department filed criminal complaints for grand theft and fraud against six customers of the RentAvison store in Macclenny who defaulted on monthly payments, mostly for bedding and bedroom furniture.

They are:

- Crystal Cole, 31, of Macclenny for mattresses and a bunk bed on which she owes \$900.
- Hulon Strickland Jr., 44, of Macclenny for mattress and frames. Outstanding balance \$742.

ing balance \$742.

- Ann Chavis, 46, of Baldwin for mattress and box springs for which she owes \$655.

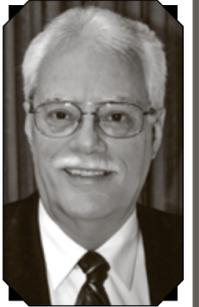
- Mark Thompson, 39, of Jacksonville for \$1675 still owed on a bedroom set.
- Eraina Stoutamire, 45, of Macclenny for default on the full cost of a mattress and bunk bed set delivered to her in April.

- Catrece Bailey, 39, of Glen St. Mary for a \$975 Playstation she failed to return.

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CIRCUIT COURT

4 years in prison for VOP

A convicted drug dealer was sentenced in circuit court on August 21 to state prison for 52 months for violating terms of his drug-offender probation.

Court records indicate that William J. Williams, 49, of Jacksonville was arrested on a warrant issued in February of last year. He was originally sentenced in 2010 to three years for trafficking in illegal drugs and possession of both marijuana and paraphernalia in 2008.



William Williams

He violated terms of a 10-year drug offender probation by failing to pay supervision costs, changing residences and failure to submit to a urine test for the presence of drugs.

In more recent sentencing on August 28, Judge James Colaw ordered Matthew Light to serve five years for threatening to kill his live-in girlfriend and their three children earlier this year.

The defendant, 29 and from Middleburg, was arrested after the girlfriend, 26, and her mother complained he made the threats via phone and social media if she ended their relationship.

- Ethan Hatcher will serve 30 months in prison followed by seven years on sex-offender probation after pleading no contest to lewd and lascivious molestation of a 13-year-old girl in August of 2017.

The girl told police that Mr. Hatcher, 20, of Glen St. Mary forced her to have sex in a remote area near the St. Mary's River in the north county. She also accused him of send-

ing obscene photos of himself via Snapchat.

The defendant insisted the act was consensual. The judge ordered electronic monitoring upon release and that Mr. Hatcher submit to a sex therapy program.

- The judge ordered Charles Rafuse, 34, of Macclenny to serve two years for violating probation for sale of controlled drugs in twin 2016 cases. He was given credit for nearly a year of previous confinement.

Other prison sentences that day:

- Michael Myers, sale of opium or derivatives near a public place of business; 18 months.
- Moses Peralta, aggravated fleeing police, driving on a revoked license, non-assigned license tab, reckless driving; one year, seven days.
- Marco Terrell, possession of prescription drugs; 15 months.
- Michael Ray Johnson, probation violation for failing to return leased property, possession of prescription drugs, marijuana and paraphernalia; one year, seven days.

Non-prison sentences:

- Kevin Ray Combs Jr., driving on a revoked license, carrying concealed firearm, non-assigned license tag, marijuana possession; 36 days in jail, four-year drug offender probation.
- Jarrod Jones, felony battery (repeat offender); 209 days in jail, two-year probation, mental health evaluation, community service.
- Thomas Starling, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, battery, trespass; two-year probation, anger management class, drug and alcohol abuse evaluation, community service.

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Pot arrests at station, schools

JON SHUMAKE

Police arrested a Fleming Island man on several charges the night of September 1 after he was involved in an altercation at the Journey Food Store that included him yelling profanities at a store employee.

William Franck, 39, was taken into custody after he ignored several commands to stop walking aggressively toward Deputy Andrew Thames after threatening the officer. The deputy subdued the suspect with a taser shot.

Mr. Franck was then

found to have a small amount of marijuana and a drug pipe in his pocket during a search, according to the officer's report.

David Hunter Jr., 51, of Glen St. Mary said he and Mr. Franck were traveling to Jacksonville when their vehicle overheated. He said an argument ensued between the two of them while attempting to fix the vehicle. A store employee then came out to tell Mr. Franck to calm his behavior, at which point he yelled profanities at her, Mr. Hunter told Deputy Thames.

Mr. Franck then grabbed

his belongings and started walking across the road toward the wooded area, where he was met by police.

Complainant Patricia Harris said Mr. Franck was yelling profanities at Mr. Hunter, and she asked them to leave the property. The accused then became aggressive toward her and Mr. Hunter told him to cease his behavior, Deputy Thames reported.

Mr. Franck was jailed on misdemeanor charges of resisting without violence, disorderly conduct, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Authorities also made four other arrests for pot possession during the week, including two at county schools.

• Clay Touchton, 18, of Macclenny was jailed the late morning of August 30 after he was caught on video "vaping" on a school bus with another student.

BCHS Principal Allen Murphy searched Mr. Touchton's backpack and found a bag of marijuana inside a cigarette box. The teen said he hid it in his bag and forgot it was there, Deputy Johnny Byrd reported.

• A 13-year-old female middle school student was jailed the morning of August 31 after teacher Ashton Norman informed Deputy Jacob Satterwhite the student smelled like marijuana. She was escorted to student services where she was found to be in possession of pot, according to the deputy's report.

• Deputy Thames also arrested Joseph Starling, 23, of Sanderson the night of August 31 after 3.7 grams of

pot was found in his truck during a traffic stop after the suspect failed to use a turn signal.

The deputy began following Mr. Starling on SR 121 after a report of a reckless driver in the area. Mr. Starling failed to signal his right turn from Lowder Street onto SR 228.

A search revealed a cigarette box containing the drug above the driver's sun visor.

A highway patrolman arrived at the scene and conducted a separate investigation for hit and run.

• Brian S. Young, 42, of Orange Park was arrested the morning of August 29 by the Florida Highway Patrol for drug possession after his vehicle, a cream-colored GMC Acadia, was reportedly driving recklessly on I-10 eastbound in Glen St. Mary.

When stopped by Trooper Jeffrey Naeyaert, Mr. Young appeared nervous and said he was prescribed medical marijuana.

The suspect was asked to exit the vehicle and Trooper Robinson found a pot grinder with marijuana in it, a bottle with one Xanax pill and another pill bottle with a white powdery substance during a subsequent search.

Trooper Naeyaert explained to Mr. Young that green leafy marijuana is not a legal form of medical marijuana and that the pill bottles didn't indicate the other drugs were prescribed to him. One had no label and the other was under the name Gonzalez.

Mr. Young was then arrested and taken to county jail.

Canine teams help find suspect who attacked relatives

Canine tracking teams from the sheriffs department and Department of Corrections succeeding in chasing down a homeless man who fled a residence on Clet Harvey Road after attacking two relatives.

Jordan McDermitt, 20, of Sanderson said she was struck in the face by her brother Preston Burns, 27, because she would not drive him to Walmart the early evening of August 30.

Ms. McDermitt, who Deputy Jared Sharman said bore signs of the blow, then went to the nearby residence of her step-father Hance Sweat Jr., 46, who received small lacerations on the head when Mr. Burns came onto his property and allegedly struck him with a knife handle.

He then fled into nearby woods where he was found hiding a short time later. He is charged with domestic battery and resisting police, along with felony aggravated battery.

In other recent incidents of a domestic nature: • Deputy Russell Clark arrested Edgar Moring, 47, of Macclenny the evening of August 31 after he went to the residence of Marsha Donaldson, 34, on Abernathy Circle and threatened her.

Ms. Donaldson, with whom Mr. Moring has two children who were present at the time, said the suspect had been drinking and was angry over her relationship with his brother.

He allegedly threatened to notify HUD Housing to have her evicted, then threatened to burn down her house, promising she would not wake up the next morning.

• Benjamin Hicks Jr., 37, was arrested at a residence on Mitch Lane in Macclenny on August 29 by Cpl. Tony Norman and charged with violating a protective order banning him from contact with Shantague Washington, 29, and being on the property.

Ms. Washington told police Mr. Hicks had been on the premises the previous two days looking for food. He was back the day of his arrest in a bedroom.

• A 16-year-old Baker High student was arrested by campus deputy Jeremiah Combs on August 28 for battery on his sister, 17, before classes that day. He is charged with domestic battery.

• Mark Collingwood, 33, of Sanderson was arrested August 27 by Deputy Kelby Crawford for battery on his 9-year-old daughter while in his custody on August 19.

Keller Intermediate officials notified police after seeing "significant bruising" on the girl's arm.

• In another arrest related to a Keller student, police arrested Abby Vonk, 28, for felony neglect of her four children ages 1 through 9 while living with them in a Dodge van in the Margaretta area.

A guidance counselor at the school said the 9-year-old showed up at school "unkempt and dirty." In an interview with Deputy Combs, Ms. Vonk admitted to being homeless and that she and her children has little or no food.

She contended they "had fallen on hard times."

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Improved lighting

TROY ROBERTS
FDOT Communications

Overhead lights are being installed at a pair of Interstate 10 interchanges in Baker County as part of a new Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project.

The lighting improvement project will see the addition of high-mast lighting at the U.S. 90 and County Road 250 interchanges. Additionally, the project also calls for lighting to be installed under the overpasses at each interchange.

Currently, there is no overhead lighting at either interchange. This addition will create better visibility for motorists traveling at night.

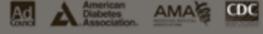
FDOT has hired Conti Corporation to complete the \$3.3 million project. Work is expected to be completed Spring 2019.

Crews will work on installing the lighting at the U.S. 90 interchange before moving to the County Road 250 interchange. Work will primarily take place during the day, but no lane closures are permitted during daytime hours. However, some night work will be required to set the poles for the lighting and intermittent lane closures on Interstate 10 will be required.

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Congratulations on 50 years of marriage. I thought long and hard about what to get you for your anniversary, but kept thinking that 50 years deserves more than a gift card to Texas Roadhouse. I finally came up with an idea to write this letter to let you know how much I love you both and how thankful I am to be able to share this special day with you.

Your love for each other and determination through the years is not only an example to me, but also to everyone who knows you. You have shown by your actions how important it is to live out the promises you made to each other. You have demonstrated that "putting God first" is not just an expression, but a true way of life.

Over the years our family has seen high, lows, good days, and bad days, but through it all, your commitment to family is merely one of the lessons you have taught me. You've also taught me to make sure I stand up for what I believe, stay humble in everything I do, and take nothing for granted. Although at times it might have seemed that your lessons fell on the deaf ears of a stubborn and bull-headed young boy, it's those lessons and the many more you taught me that made me the man I am today.

In closing, let me say again to the two people I love and admire the most, Happy Anniversary and I LOVE YOU!

Your son, Andy
P.S. I'll still get you the gift card.



love

'Decon' kits to reduce cancer risk

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

For a long time in the fire service, having dirty and charred bunker gear was a badge of honor. But a new movement emphasizing firefighter safety aims to change that.

It's led by the Florida Firefighters Safety and Health Collaboration, which has been using state funding to deliver decontamination kits to local fire departments to help them combat high cancer rates among firefighters.

A six-year national study by the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies that concluded in 2016 found that firefighters who spent more time battling fires had higher risks of developing cancer, specifically stomach, mouth, lung and urinary cancers.

Lt. Rick Diggs of the Macclenny Fire Rescue Department credits the work of the two-year-old Florida Firefighters Safety and Health Collaboration for helping to change the culture of the service.

"In the old school mentality of the service, the dirtier your bunker gear, the more seasoned a firefighter you were. It was a badge of honor, so guys would neglect decontamination. They didn't want to have clean, new looking gear. So every third day or whatever they'd be putting on this cancer-soaked suit for their entire career."

The organization uses funding from the State Fire Marshals office to buy and distribute the so-called "decon," or decontamination, buckets with supplies that can remove up to 80 percent of the toxic remnants from fires, according to Lt. Josh Davis, the Macclenny department's safety officer.

"They've made a ton of headway in the area of safety in fire service ...," he said.

Last month the city department received six such kits, one for each apparatus in the department, free from the organization. They cost about \$300



City firefighters pose for a photo with the donated decontamination buckets for Instagram.

apiece, or \$1800 for all six.

Lt. Davis said the grant program is aimed at smaller, cash-strapped departments. The recent grant was the second distribution by the safety collaboration.

"We caught the second wave," he said, adding that each kit contains brushes, hoses with couplings and adapters to fit various trucks and a light detergent. Firefighters can now decontaminate themselves after battling a structure or car fire before they get back into their vehicles and return to the station.

"It's a two-stage decon —wet down, scrub down with the detergent, head-to-toe, all the gear. Then we strip it all off and get it stored away from the firefighters in the truck," said the lieutenant.

He explained that modern homes are constructed using materials that often contain synthetic chemicals that when burned emit carcinogenic gases

that coat firefighters and their gear.

Long-term exposure to the toxins is believed to be the source of what Lt. Davis described as "astronomical" cancer rates among firefighters.

"Homebuilders are not making anything easy on us," he said.

He said the deaths of 61 percent of the people named on a memorial wall for deceased firefighters in Maryland were attributed to cancer.

With the numbers like that, the need for change became apparent. Just last month President Trump signed legislation mandating the creation of a firefighter cancer registry to better study the issue.

"There's a new badge of honor," said Lt. Diggs. "It's clean gear, not dirty gear, the mind set of preventing cancer, not taking your uniform home to your family. This is a new movement in the fire service to preserve firefighters lives. 'The new badge of honor' is the slogan."

COUNTY COURT

Sentences from the August 29 session

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on August 29:

Crystal Avella, VOP (probation violation) DUI with property damage, resisting arrest; 125 days in jail.

Cale Bennett, no valid driver's license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

William Clayton Davis, trespass, violation of domestic violence injunction resisting arrest (three counts); 109 days in jail.

Nina Fogarty, VOP petty theft; 75 days in jail.

Joan Grow, VOP reckless driving (reduced from DUI); failed to appear, warrant issued.

Kristen Hilliard, sale of alcohol to a person under 21; six-month probation. 50 hours community service.

Ashley Hodges, petty theft; court costs.

Crystal Malloy, VOP failure of a parent to require school attendance; 54 days in jail.

Paul Melvin, no valid driver's license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

Justin Raiford, possession of drug paraphernalia; 118 days in jail, six-month probation.

Nellie Roberson, no valid driver's license; charge dropped.

Candice Rousseau,

petty theft; nine days in jail, six-month probation, parenting and petty theft classes, attend group addiction meetings.

Garrett Simmons, possession drug paraphernalia; charge dropped.

Jasmaine Teston, marijuana and paraphernalia possession; charge dropped.

VOP driving on a suspended license (DWLS); court costs.

Michael Bailey, VOP domestic battery; 57 days in jail.

Hunter Combs, VOP reckless land burning; failed to appear, warrant issued.

Bradley Crosby, VOP DWLS; 51 days in jail.

Ronald Daniels, VOP no valid driver's license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

Joshua Ellis, VOP DWLS; 60 days in jail.

Thomas Hart Jr., VOP resisting arrest; 93 days in jail.

Larry Holt, petty theft, possession of drug paraphernalia; 120 days in jail.

William Padgett, VOP petty theft, refund fraud; 46 days in jail.

Franklin Thornton, petty theft; six-month probation, attend group addiction meetings, petty theft class, hold sign in front of retailer.

Breaks mother's door frame, window

JON SHUMAKE

A 16-year-old boy was arrested the morning of August 28 for criminal mischief after he allegedly caused an estimated \$700 in damage to his mother's residence during an argument.

Kelli Higginbotham of Macclenny said the teen kicked the master bedroom door of the Sands Point Circle residence, which caused major damage to the door frame. Once inside the bedroom, the suspect shattered the window with an unknown object, Deputy Jared Mallard reported.

The window damage was

estimated at \$600 and the door frame at \$100.

In another criminal mischief incident, a Jacksonville man was named in a criminal complaint for allegedly kicking his girlfriend's vehicle during an argument just before midnight on August 30.

Julie Owens of Macclenny said her boyfriend Jerame Barber, 42, fled the area on foot. She said they had been involved in an argument after he drank alcoholic beverages and she drove them back to her Taft Road residence.

The argument continued

there, she said, and Mr. Barber exited the 2007 Mazda and kicked the front passenger side door. Deputy John Finley Jr. noted he saw a dent approximately 8-10 inches long.

The suspect was located walking on Hillcrest Drive and denied kicking the vehicle, saying the dent was there when Ms. Owens bought it, according to the officer's report.

A 38-year-old man was also jailed the evening of September 3 after denying he threatened Jeremy Lee, owner of Crispy Crunchy Chicken on North Sixth

Street in Macclenny.

Mr. Lee reported to police the suspect, Richard F. Smith, 38, of Macclenny came into his store yelling threats, including to burn down Mr. Lee's house. Mr. Lee said Mr. Smith then left after police were summoned. He was stopped on foot on U.S. 90 by Deputy John Finley Jr. who described the suspect as "extremely agitated."

Mr. Smith said he had a disagreement with Mr. Lee but denied threatening him. He was arrested for disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor.

Teen jailed for felony battery on a teacher

JON SHUMAKE

A 13-year-old Baker County Middle School student was arrested the morning of August 29 for felony battery on an educator stemming from an incident involving two other teenagers.

The girl was allegedly in an argument with two females ages 13 and 14 between classes and attempting to fight when teacher Leah Wheeler attempted to separate them. The suspect then grabbed Ms. Wheeler by the hair and pulled her out of the way, which caused the teacher to fall to the ground, according to Deputy Jacob Satterwhite's report.

The 13-year-old suspect was also charged with disruption of a school function, a misdemeanor.

In other recent case, a Macclenny woman was

named in a criminal complaint for battery after she allegedly threw a TV remote at a Macclenny man, which caused a small laceration on his forehead the morning of August 31.

Victim Michael Wood, 38, said Maryann Davis, 26, was at his Adams Road residence gathering personal belongings when an argument began. He said she threw the remote and then kicked his truck and left the area, according to Deputy Justin Yingling's report.

The deputy noted Mr. Wood had a small laceration and there were footprints on the passenger door of his vehicle.

In a phone conversation with police, Ms. Davis denied throwing anything at Mr. Wood, but admitted to kicking his truck before leaving the area.

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.

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OPINION

Eye-opening to witness county recount process

Elections are certainly exciting and a bit stressful for most of those more intimately involved in them — like the candidates, campaign managers, elections supervisors and us lowly journalists.

Perhaps it's because the winners will call the shots in our representative democracy, for better or worse, and as voters and observers that means the stakes are high. Our money, our hopes and dreams and the future of our society all seem to hang in the balance.

So when uncertainty prevails after an election, the tension and nail-biting gets ratcheted up that even more.

I was still buzzing days after covering election night in Baker County a week ago, which left the District 4 school board race undecided. Incumbent Art-

ie Burnett had garnered five more votes than his second-time challenger Jody Anderson, who is already planning another run at the title, to trigger a recount last Friday.

I'd never watched a recount take place so getting a front row seat to one of the most fundamental processes in a democracy — ensuring an accurate vote count — was very interesting as well as a bit nerve-racking. I was impatient to broadcast the result out as soon as possible, but of course, the wheels of government turn painfully slow.

And for good reason. Supervisor of Elections Nita Crawford is nothing if not cautious, meticulous even.

The first thing she said to me after saying hello was, "Did you see the sign on the door?"

What I hadn't bothered to read was a piece of paper taped to the glass saying: "No writing utensils beyond this point while recount is in process." The pens election workers were using had red ink, not the black ink pens used for filling out ballots, all to ensure no ballots were altered during the recount.

In fact, I'm surprised I didn't get patted down before getting arms-length access to the ballot scanning process, which took a few hours. Bags of ballots, each sealed on election night and locked in a vault, were cut open with scissors and then resealed after the ballots were recounted, all in full view of canvassing board members, Ms. Crawford and the candidates themselves. It was like they were handling cash inside a bank.

After the machine recounted the ballots and the vote didn't change, officials turned their attention to so-called undervotes, which are votes that were either blank or not readable by the scanners. By law they are screened out during the recount process.

Then, in front of several witnesses, including the candidates themselves, each undervote ballot was examined and three were found to have marks on them. Two were declared votes for Mr. Anderson but that wasn't enough to change the outcome.

Ms. Crawford emphasized several times that the voting machines performed as they should — counting only the clearly marked ballots.

And kudos to the voters. They clearly marked 5098 ballots out of the 5101 cast in the race. That's 99.94 percent effective.

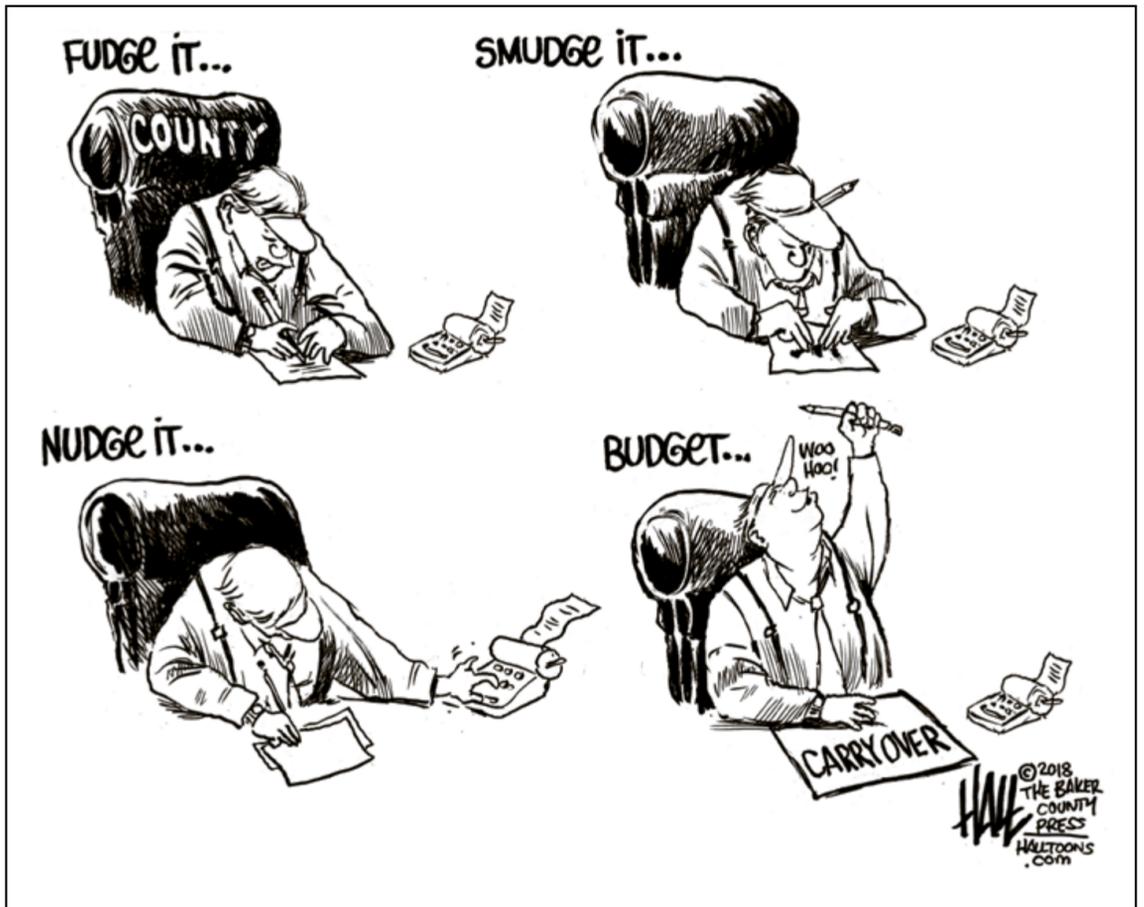
By all accounts everything in the recount process worked beautifully, it was just slow, taking four some hours to complete. The candidates accepted the outcome and moved on, perhaps with a few more gray hairs to show for it. I was just happy to be a part of it and revel in the democratic process for a few days last week.

On Point In Print

Joel Addington

Correction

Last week *The Press* reported in error that two people charged with felony child abuse counts were sentenced in circuit to the same charges. Rather Dawn Evans and Justin Miller pleaded to misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Ms. Evans received two years on probation, not three years as reported.



Yankee food and changing tastes

Yesterday, my wife decided that she didn't feel particularly well and wasn't going to eat dinner. That turned me into a scavenger. I was rooting around in the cabinets and refrigerator trying to find dinner.

I started pulling out random containers of Tupperware and peeking inside in hopes of finding a good combination of leftovers.

"You know, I bought you some stuffed peppers for your lunch," she said.

I perked up. Stuffed peppers! Stuffed peppers are something that my wife would never eat. We could be in a Syrian refugee camp living on beetles and if someone threw us a container of stuffed peppers, Kelley wouldn't eat it. But she loves me, so she buys it for me.

I love stuffed peppers. I grew up on stuffed peppers.

"What are you going to eat with them?"

I considered for a moment. "Probably Yankee food."

"OK," said Kelley. "Just nothing that stinks too badly."

"Yankee food," describes stuff that Kelley won't eat, like pickled beets and turnips — not turnip greens, which she will, and rhubarb. In her mind Yankee food stinks when you cook it.

Come to think of it, she's not too far off on that.

I try to keep some Yankee food on hand for every now and then when she's not home or doesn't eat. It's a taste of my childhood.

In the very back of a cabinet in our laundry room was an old jar of red cabbage I had used as a prop for our production of *A Christmas Story*. I dusted it off and cooked it up with my stuffed peppers and YUM. It took me back to my days in Buffalo. An ice cold

can of Blatz or Falstaff beer and it would have been perfect.

Our palates are funny. Stuff I will eat, Kelley won't touch. Daughter Sara cooks with things like sweet potatoes and eggplant which I don't like. Son Spencer will eat just about anything, but Dylan eats a grand total of maybe a dozen things.

Our palates change over the years. I read a very interesting article once that discussed how babies see and what they like to eat. It said that babies and toddlers are able to see color that is brighter than anything we adults can see. At middle age we have lost 40 percent of the color recognition children possess.

Food is also interesting. Along with color, a child's sense of smell and taste is vivid. That's why so many young kids hate stinky foods like broccoli.

I may have told this story before, but one of the worst spankings I ever got was over broccoli. My mother

would serve it and I wouldn't eat it. I hated it. It stunk and was bitter. Why in the world would anyone consider this food?

One mealtime, I had left the broccoli untouched on my plate. I'd eaten everything else so I couldn't hide it under the mashed potatoes, which was something I would do to camouflage the fact I hadn't eaten it.

"You're going to sit there until you eat your broccoli."

I pouted and she uttered one of those "mother sentences" we all have heard.

"Starving children in China would love that broccoli."

At that, I had one of those moments of utter stupidity that strike humans from time to time. I got up, opened a drawer in the buffet where she kept envelopes and stamps. I got an envelope, put a stamp on it, walked back to the table and put my broccoli in the envelope. I then wrote China on the front, sealed it and pushed it over to my mother.

I don't know what happened next because all I can remember was lying on my stomach on my bed because I couldn't sit down.

The odd thing is that broccoli is now one of my favorite foods, along with liver and onions, beets, rutabagas and all kinds of other things I wouldn't touch as a child.

Our palates change as we get older. I thought of that as I dug into my stuffed peppers and red cabbage.

Yankee food — Yum.

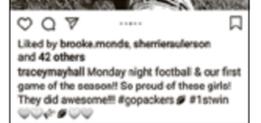
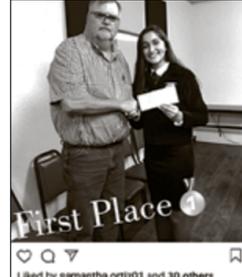
MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

BAKER SOCIALIZING

Baker County 4-H Shaina Spann

4-H Families, It is with deep sadness that I inform you of Baker Roper's Horse Club Volunteer Leader, Lydia Pons' passing. She was a lifelong 4-Her and loved sharing her knowledge and passion of 4-H, public speaking, animals, and so much more. Each of us not only grieves at the passing of a tremendous individual, but also for the loss a family suffers. I ask that you keep her family in your thoughts. Her children are fine, and the family asks that we give them privacy and prayers through this difficult time. Please be patient, as Baker Ropers will not be meeting and we will notify the membership when those meetings will resume. The Extension Office and 4-H will be sending flowers if you would like to donate, just drop by the office.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Purchase these photos at www.bakercountypress.com
 Photos by Joel Addington
 Sherri Cheshire (far right) leads a group on seniors in stretches Tuesday afternoon.

Improving balance to avoid falls

JOEL ADDINGTON
 MANAGING EDITOR
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Preventing falls and the injuries that may result from them gets more and more important as adults age. That's why the Baker County Council on Aging has been hosting bi-weekly balance exercise classes at the senior center downtown for the last eight weeks.



Ida Gunnells (left) and Billie Oliver (right) stretch out their backs by bringing their elbows together.

More than one in three people age 65 or older fall each year, according to the National Institute on Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), making it one of the most common hazards for the elderly population.

The two-hour classes here were led by Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center's (AHEC) Sherri Cheshire and focused on strengthening exercises to prevent falls and improve balance, how to stay active while being mindful of falling risks both at home and out in the community, recognizing bad habits that can lead to falls and how to overcome fears about falling.

The free evidence-based program — A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls — was pioneered at Boston University with the support from HHS. It's administered through a model that was developed through a multi-agency effort in Maine that was recognized for innovation and quality in healthcare by the American Society of Aging in 2006.

It worked well for the 8-to-12 participants who regularly attended the classes, according to Ms. Cheshire.

The classes finished on September 4 just in time for another series of classes from AHEC and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program to begin September 6. They'll run through October 29.

The arthritis exercise program teaches "gentle joint-safe exercises developed specifically for people with arthritis to help relieve stiffness, decrease arthritis pain and improve balance," states AHEC's website.

"The great thing about it is now that we'd had the balance classes, we can try to move more into the exercises," said Ms. Cheshire, adding a third program to follow the arthritis exercise classes will be on diabetes management.

All of the programs are

designed to educate seniors and give them exercises, techniques, tips and other information they can incorporate into the daily routines, like the proper way to get out of bed in the morning.

As Ms. Cheshire stressed again this week for the six attendees present, you should bend your legs at the knee while lying down and then roll onto your side while pushing up with your arms and bringing your legs forward over the edge of the bed before lowering them to the floor.

Very important, she said, is to remain sitting on the bed for a minute or so after sitting up since changing in the head's elevation can cause dizziness.

That's also a great opportunity to stretch the neck with head turns and extend the arms for a deep breath before standing up, perhaps with support from a night table or chair if needed.

"I love the ones for when you get out of bed," said participant Carol Rowe, referencing a wide arm stretch with an inhale and then exhale while turning left, then inhaling again before turning right and exhaling again.

While doing the cool down after the balance exercises, she asked if anyone heard her bones cracking.

"You get extra points if you snap, crackle and pop," commented Ms. Cheshire.

Other tips for balance and fall prevention shared Tuesday included:

- Sitting down, even on the ground, when feeling like you may fall rather than pushing forward and risking a fall from a standing position.

"Protect the egg at all costs — your head. Without it, nothing else matters," urged Ms. Cheshire, who also recommended when falling down backward to tuck the chin and brace the body with your hands and

elbows. Shifting your weight during a fall toward a softer surface, like grass rather than pavement, can soften the impact from a fall, she explained.

If seated on the ground, you should cross your legs and roll over onto your hands and knees before using a chair or other support, like grab bars, to get back to your feet.

- Keeping a cell phone or some kind of alert system with you in case of a fall.

Ms. Cheshire relayed a story about an elderly woman who fell at her beachside home and wasn't discovered until four days later when her bridge club came to check on her.

"Even if you can't get up, you need to get some help," she said.

- Use a cane when needed and make sure it's the right height. She said there should be no more than a 20-to-30 degree angle at the elbow when using the cane and it should reach up to your wrist when standing

straight on the ground with your arm fully extended.

- Keep a flashlight or portable light source by the bedside in case the power goes out because having good visibility helps to prevent falls.

As such, she said, walking with your field vision up and straight ahead, rather than down at your feet, is critical to seeing falling or tripping hazards before reaching them.

- When standing up from a seated position, ensure your knees are over your ankles and your nose is over your toes as you push off from the chair, bench or bend to stand.

For more information about AHEC programs, contact Ms. Cheshire at (904) 482-0189 ext. 111 or scheshire@northfloridaahec.org.

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I will dwell in the high and holy place...to revive the spirit of the humble...Isaiah 57:15

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OBITUARIES

Iva Nelle Griffis, 83, of Macclenny

Iva Nelle Griffis, 83, of Macclenny passed away August 31, 2018 at Baptist Health in Jacksonville after a brief illness. She was born July 31, 1935 in Albertville, Alabama to the late Marvin Loveless and Geneva Cook Bryant and moved to Jacksonville in 1952 after marrying her husband, Richard A. Griffis. They later moved in 1963 to Baker County where they raised their family. She retired from Northeast Florida State Hospital and was a member of Glen Baptist Church. Iva was predeceased by her parents; her loving husband of 46 years Richard A. Griffis; son Gregory Bryant Griffis; grandson Ricky Craft; brothers Lloyd, Rayburn and Ricky Bryant; sisters Evie Troxtell and Nina Brown.



Ive Griffis

Mrs. Griffis is survived by her son Richard Dean (Gail) Griffis and daughter Lorri Michelle Starling; grandchildren Misti Gainey, Virginia Ellen Griffis, Amanda Gail Howard, Quincy Anne Scarborough, Katy Ranelle Lanier and Lexi Starling; six great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Iva's life was held on Tuesday, September 4 at 2 p.m. at Pine Grove Congregational Methodist Church in Raiford with Pastor Mike Norman officiating. Interment followed at Pine Grove Cemetery. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Thank you

The family of Escoe Starling would like to express its deepest thanks to everyone for all the flowers, kindness, phone calls, texts, cards, visits, support and especially all the prayers during his illness and death. Thanks to Guerry Funeral Home for all the support during our darkest hours. Our thanks also go out to Albert Starling for the lovely service he presented to us. Thanks also to everyone who prepared and brought food for the family before and after the service. It was all deeply appreciated.

The Family of Escoe Starling

Family grateful

The family of Shaquya R. Ruise would like to extend its sincere gratitude to everyone for all the love, hugs, visits, food and the prayers during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to Elder Jonathan Ruise, Tiny Tots Daycare, Mrs. Tabitha McCormick, Ms. Angie Dugger, Ms. Kelsee Rhoden and Ms. Liza Watkins, the Baker County Sheriff's Office, and the AYF football family.

The Ruise/Mosley Family

Lois Higen, 82, of Macclenny dies

Lois Crawford Higen, 82, of Macclenny passed away on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at Community Hospice in Jacksonville. Lois was born December 28, 1935 in Glen St. Mary to the late Hamilton Jefferson and Eva Crawford. She was predeceased in life by her husband, Jack B. Higen in 1983.

Mrs. Higen is survived by her son Steven M. Higen (Karen) and daughter Suzanne Hayes (Robin); grandchildren Josh, Katie, Kristen and Caleb Higen, Amanda Rewis (Tom), Lauren E. Hayes-Helms, Philip A. Hayes (Lauren); and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Lois's life was held on Wednesday, September 5 at 11 a.m. at Glen Hill Primitive Baptist Church with elders Arnold Johns and Kenneth Crawford officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in honor of their mother to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Bill Mallard, 85, of Sanderson

William (Bill) Roy Mallard, 85, of Sanderson passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2018. He was born in Jacksonville on January 4, 1933 to Roy A. Mallard and Mary Lee Mallard. He lived in Jacksonville and moved to Baker County in 1986. Mr. Mallard honorably served in the U.S. Marine Corp in Korea and Japan. After military service, he worked for the Seaboard Coastline Railroad for 42 years as a brakeman/conductor. He was known as a hard and faithful worker and truly enjoyed his job. He faithfully served the Lord and was a member of First Baptist Church Macclenny. As much as his family will miss his presence, they rejoice knowing he is in Heaven and that they will all be reunited.



William Mallard

Mr. Mallard is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joan Mallard; daughters Amy (Jody) Hicks of Sanderson and Beth (Donnie) Parvin of Jacksonville; grandchildren Brooke (Tyler) Foerman, Loren (Kyle) Horton, Wesley Parvin, Chandler Merritt and Jacob Merritt.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Mallard was held on Tuesday September 4 at his church with Pastor Edsel Bone officiating, assisted by Jacob Merritt, youth pastor of Nineteen Hundred Church, longtime friend John Harrell and granddaughter Brooke Foerman.

Special service

Sanderson Christian Revival Center will have a special service Sunday September 9 that includes communion during its morning worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a baptism service and then dinner on the grounds.

If you've wanted to be baptized but haven't been then join us. If you come to be baptized please remember to bring a towel and a change of clothes. The church is located at 14302 Sapp Rd., 5 miles south of I-10 on the corner of CR 229.



In loving memory of
Michael E. Combs
2/21/72-9/2/17
My Son

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. A part of me went with you the day God called you home. A million times I've cried. If loving could have saved you, you would have never died. Forgive me Lord. I'll always weep for my son I loved so much, but yet I could not keep. Sweet dreams, my Angel.

WITH LOVE,
MOTHER, BROTHERS,
SISTERS AND WIFE,
STEP-DAUGHTERS,
CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN

Funeral held for James Raulerson

James Aaron Raulerson, 92, passed away on Thursday August 23, 2018. He was born on June 4, 1926 in Baker County to the late Andrew and Minnie Crews Raulerson. He was a veteran and served in the U.S. Navy, and was a member of Otis Road Church of God.



James Raulerson

Mr. Raulerson was preceded in death by his wives Doris Sikes Raulerson and Myrtle "Mert" Raulerson; son Arnold Aaron Raulerson Sr.; grandchildren Melissa Raulerson Thomas and Aaron Raulerson Jr.; brothers Melvin and Cecil Raulerson. Survivors include his sons Harry (Delores) Raulerson, Gary (Jo Ann) Raulerson, Marcus (Susie) Raulerson, Steven (Dottie) Raulerson, and Jeffrey (Mary Ann) Raulerson; daughter-in-law Cathy Raulerson; brother Virgil (Marion) Raulerson; sisters Sylvia Spires, Ophelia Nelon and Naomi Higginbotham; 13 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service for Mr. Raulerson was held 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 28 at his church with pastors Steve and Susie Thomas and Gary Raulerson officiating. Interment with military honors followed at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery in Hilliard. Cedar Bay Funeral Home of Jacksonville was in charge of arrangements.

William Yaun, a Macclenny native

William Ray Yaun, 58, of Mayo, Florida passed away on August 30, 2018 in Gainesville. He was born in Macclenny to Jodie Monroe (Tip) Yaun and Joyce Wilkerson (Jubbe) Smith. William enjoyed working in the chicken and dairy farming industry. He was an avid Gator fan and enjoyed hunting, fishing, mud bogging and working on mud trucks. He loved his dog BooBoo.



William Yaun

Mr. Yaun is survived by his children Billy Ray Yaun, Joshua Lee Yaun, Garit Timothy Yaun, Brandy Herrick, Amanda Herrick all of Mayo; sisters Susie Yaun and Tensy (Mack) Robinson; brother John Yaun; previous spouse Kim Yaun, all of Mayo, 11 grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces; best friends Paul and Brenda Miller.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, September 5 at 11 a.m. at the Community Full Gospel Church, Glen St. Mary with Pastor Tommy Richardson officiating. Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

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Psalms 51:10



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Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm
Pastor Tommy Richardson | 904-275-2949

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
CR 127 N. of Sanderson
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:00 pm
Pastor Bro. Timothy Alford

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church
CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

MACCLENNY CHURCH OF CHRIST
573 S. 5th St. • 259-6059
SUNDAY SERVICES
Bible Study 9:45 am
Fellowship 10:30 am
Worship Services 11:00 am
Minister Sam Kitching 'A friendly church!'

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

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

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

Calvary Baptist Church
Pastor John Orberg II
Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
523 North Boulevard W. | a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com •• 259-4529

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Temple
INDEPENDENT PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
Located at:
251 West Ohio Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
Service Times...
Sunday:
10:00 Sunday School/Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
6:00 Evening Worship
Wednesday:
6:00 Family Meal
7:00 Adult Service
7:00 Youth Services
We would love to connect with you!
For more information on what we do, how to contact us, or how to find our church, visit our website at:
www.christianfellowshiptemple.com
Connect Grow Serve

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

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov



LEGAL NOTICES



CONCURRENT NOTICE NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

September 6, 2018
City of Macclenny
118 E. Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, Florida 32063
(904) 259-6261

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Macclenny.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 24, 2018, the City of Macclenny will submit a request to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project to provide infrastructure improvements throughout four service areas. In Service Area #1, the proposed project includes the demolition of the existing lift station, installation of a new submersible duplex lift station, reconnection to existing manhole and gravity sewer, connection to existing force main, installation of an electrical emergency generator, bypass pumping, and site work restoration at the Lewis Street lift station located on Lewis Street. In Service Area #2, the proposed project includes the demolition of the existing lift station, installation of a new submersible duplex lift station, reconnection to existing manhole and gravity sewer, connection to existing force main, installation of an electrical emergency generator, bypass pumping, and site work restoration at the Ivy Street lift station located on Ivy Street. In Service Area #3, the proposed project includes the installation of a liner for existing wet well, installation of new self-priming pumps, installation of new discharge piping and valves, connection to existing force main, installation of an electrical and emergency generator, bypass pumping, and site work restoration at the Stansell Street lift station located on Stansell Street. In Service Area #4, the proposed project includes the installation of a liner for existing wet well, installation of new self-priming pumps, installation of new discharge piping and valves, connection to existing force main, installation of an electrical and emergency generator, bypass pumping, and site work restoration at the 9th Street lift station located on 9th Street. Estimated funding includes \$700,000 through the CDBG Program and \$50,000 through local budgeted funds.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Macclenny has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Macclenny City Hall, 118 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The ERR may be examined or copied during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Macclenny, 118 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. All comments must be received on or before September 24, 2018. Comments will be considered prior to the City of Macclenny requesting a release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Macclenny certifies to DEO and HUD that Mark Bryant in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. DEO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Macclenny to use the CDBG funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DEO will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Macclenny's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Macclenny; (b) the City of Macclenny has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DEO; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures at 24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76 and shall be addressed to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, CDBG Program, MSC-400, 107 East Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-6508. Potential objectors should contact the City of Macclenny to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mark Bryant, Mayor,
Macclenny City Council
9/6c
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 21, 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.

1999 Buick Century
VIN# 2G4WS52M8X1432279
9/6c IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-CA-00095

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;
JAMES 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;
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 NORTH-
WEST QUARTER OF SECTION TWO
IN TOWNSHIP THREE, SOUTH OF
RANGE TWENTY EAST, CONTAIN-
ING 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

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

April Griffiths,
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 Griffiths 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

8/16-9/6p

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,
Defendants(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, MCCLEN-
NY II, UNIT II, A SUBDIVISION RE-
CORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES
64-65 IN CURRENT RECORDS OF
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**A/K/A 4209 HICKORY ST, MAC-
CLENNY, 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
8/30-9/6c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 18-00035CP

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
Donahoo & Mcmenamy, P.a.
245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 450
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone: (904) 354-8080
Fax: (904) 391-9563
E-Mail: eservice@dmjxlaw.com

8/30-9/20c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker County School District School Board will hold the following public hearing on **Monday, September 17, 2018, at the District School Board Room located at 270 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The following items will be considered at the public hearing: **2018-2019 Student Progression Plan and 2018-2019 Code of Conduct.**

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The documents will be available for preview on Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) at the Superintendent's Office located at 270 South Boulevard East, Macclenny, Florida, beginning, Wednesday, August 15, 2018. You may also access the document on our district website at www.baker12.org.

Sherrie Raulerson
Superintendent of Schools
8/16-9/13c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 02-2018-CA-00064

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPI-
ON MORTGAGE COMPANY,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUST-
EES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY,
THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, JAMES A.
RHUE, DECEASED, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: BARBARA NIX
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 11037 Kenneth
Walker Road, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040
CURRENT ADDRESS: Unknown

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES,
OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY,
THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, JAMES A.
RHUE, DECEASED
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: Unknown
CURRENT ADDRESS: Unknown

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING
BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE
HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S)
WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE,
WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY
CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS,
DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: Unknown
CURRENT ADDRESS: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to fore-
close a mortgage on the following property in
Baker County, Florida:

**COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST
CORNER OF SECTION 29, TOWN-
SHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST,
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND
RUN THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES
28 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST
ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID
SECTION 29, 660.83 FEET, THENCE
SOUTH 0 DEGREES 41 MINUTES,
46 SECONDS WEST, 315.62 FEET
TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING,
THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 0 DE-
GREES 41 MINUTES 46 SECONDS
WEST 6287.78 FEET TO THE NORTH
RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A COUNTY
MAINTAINED ROAD, THENCE SOUTH
88 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST,
ALONG SAID NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY
LINE, 306.83 FEET THENCE NORTH 0
DEGREES 42 MINUTES 39 SECONDS
EAST 634.26 FEET, THENCE NORTH
89 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 45 SE-
CONDS EAST 306.49 FEET, TO THE
POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LANDS
BEING A PART OF THE WEST 1/4 OF
THE NORTHWEST 1/4 SECTION 29,
TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 21
EAST, AND KNOWN AS PARCEL 12
OF ALLEN TRACTS AN UNRECORDED
SUBDIVISION. TOGETHER WITH
A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THERE-
ON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND
APPURTENANCE THERETO, DE-
SCRIBED AS A DOUBLEWIDE 1988
CHAMPION HOME BUILDERS MO-
BILE HOME BEARING TITLE NUM-
BERS 45508196 AND 45508214;
VIN NUMBERS 338476N6838A AND
338476N6838B.
A/K/A 11037 KENNETH WALKER
ROAD, GLEN ST. MARY, FL 32040**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Albertelli Law, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 30th day of August, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law
P.O. Box 23028
Tampa, FL 33623
(813) 221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
9/6-9/13c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-CP-0055

IN RE: The Estate of
JOHN WALDO BROWN,
deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JOHN WALDO BROWN, deceased, File Number 02-2018-CP-0055, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 23rd day of August, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
Clerk Of Court
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Frank E. Maloney, Jr., P.A.
445 East Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-3155
8/30-9/20c

MEETING DATE

Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Development Commission will meet on the following date:

**September 12, 2018
@ 6:00 pm**

The meeting will be held at the Commerce Center
20 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny,
Florida 32063

The public is invited to attend.

Ronald Mann, Chairman
Baker County Development Commission
9/6c

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOR-
EVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is September 6, 2018.

Personal Representative: Melanie Brown

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Frank E. Maloney, Jr., Esquire
445 East Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-3155
Florida Bar No.: 142990
9/6-9/13c

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

NELDA C. CREWS and
JAMES DAVID CREWS, her
Husband, JACK L. CUSHMAN
And MARY N. CUSHMAN, his wife,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
A.A. GETTGEY and LUCY M. GETTGEY, his
Wife, NELLIE G. WORKMAN and HARLEY J.
WORKMAN, her husband, GRACE M. LUCKIE,
JOHN O. GETTGEY, KATHRYN F. KLEIN
And CHARLES W. KLEIN, her husband,
ALL OF WHOM ARE KNOWN TO BE DECEASED;
And all unknown grantees, creditors, and all
other parties claiming by, through, under or
against them, and if dead, their unknown
spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors,
and all other parties claiming by, through,
under or against them; and all unknown grantees,
creditors, and all other parties claiming by,
through, under or against them, and if dead, or
not known to be dead or alive, their several and
respective estates, unknown spouses, heirs,
devisees, grantees and creditors, or other parties
claiming by, through, under or against those
unknown natural, persons, and the several and
respective unknown assigns, successors in in-
terest, trustees, creditors, lienors or any other
party claiming by, through, under, or against
any corporation, existing or dissolved, or other
legal entity named as defendant, and all claim-
ants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or
whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming
under any of the above named or described
defendants or parties, or claiming to have any
right, title, or interest in and to the lands here-
after described.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: A.A. GETTGEY, deceased
LUCY GETTGEY, deceased
NELLIE G. WORKMAN, deceased
HARLEY J. WORKMAN, deceased
GRACE M. LUCKIE, deceased
JOHN O. GETTGEY, deceased
KATHRYN F. KLEIN, deceased
CHARLES W. KLEIN, deceased

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Action to Quiet Title on the following property in Baker County, Florida:

**PART OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP
2 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER
COUNTY, FLORIDA BEGIN AT INTER-
SECTION OF THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-
WAY LINE OF MADISON STREET
(A 66' RIGHT-OF-WAY) WITH THE
EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF CLINTON
AVENUE (A 66' RIGHT-OF-WAY),
THENCE NORTH 78030'30" EAST A
DISTANCE OF 127.62 FEET ALONG
THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID
MADISON STREET; THENCE NORTH
11022'53" WEST A DISTANCE
OF 150.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH
78043'36" WEST A DISTANCE OF
127.84 FEET TO SAID EAST RIGHT-
OF-WAY LINE OF CLINTON AVENUE;
THENCE SOUTH 11028'02"
EAST ON SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY A
DISTANCE OF 150.77 FEET TO THE
POINT OF BEGINNING.**

ALSO, BEING THE SAME LAND AS:

**A LOT BEGINNING AT THE SOUTH-
WEST CORNER OF BLOCK 79 OF
THE TOWN OF GLEN ST. MARY,
FLORIDA, THEN RUN NORTHERLY
ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID
BLOCK 150 FEET, THEN RUN EAST-
ERLY PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH
LINE OF SAID BLOCK 125 FEET,
THEN RUN SOUTHERLY PARALLEL
WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID
BLOCK 150 TO THE SOUTH LINE
OF SAID BLOCK, AND THEN RUN
WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTH LINE
OF SAID BLOCK 125 FEET TO THE
PLACE OF BEGINNING. CONTAIN-
ING 0.44 ACRES MORE OR LESS.**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., P.A., Attorney, whose address is 445 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063; (904) 259-3155, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice and on or before the 28th day of September, 2018, and to file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., P.A., attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this court on this 23rd day of August, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
Clerk Of Court
By: Tina Carrington
Deputy Clerk

Frank E. Maloney, Jr., P.A.
445 East Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-3155
8/30-9/20c

MEETING DATE

Notice is hereby given that the Baker County Development Commission will meet on the following date:

**September 12, 2018
@ 6:00 pm**

The meeting will be held at the Commerce Center
20 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny,
Florida 32063

The public is invited to attend.

Ronald Mann, Chairman
Baker County Development Commission
9/6c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 1700082CAMXAX

CITIMORTGAGE, INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KRISTIAN T. FERGUSON; TERESA M.
FERGUSON; THOMAS S. FERGUSON A/K/A
THOMAS B. FERGUSON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE
OF THOMAS S. FERGUSON A/K/A THOMAS B.
FERGUSON, et al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 21, 2018, and entered in 1700082CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Baker County, Florida, wherein CITIMORTGAGE, INC. is the Plaintiff and KRISTIAN T. FERGUSON; TERESA M. FERGUSON; THOMAS S. FERGUSON A/K/A THOMAS B. FERGUSON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF THOMAS S. FERGUSON A/K/A THOMAS B. FERGUSON are the Defendant(s). Stacie D. Harvey as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby 339 East Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063, at 11:00 AM, on

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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

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DEADLINES

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Friday, 8:00 am - ?, 28 Martha Drive, Macclenny. Some of everything, household items.

Saturday, 7:00 am - ?, 7755 County Road 139B, Glen St. Mary. Remodeling/moving sale: Appliances, furniture, cabinets, shelving, and more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, 6031 Bob Kirkland Road, Macclenny. Multi-family sale: Adult and childrens' shoes and clothing, household items, and more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 5846 Lauramore Road at New Hope Church, Macclenny, near the fairgrounds. Rain or shine.

Enjoys teaching nature to kids

Nature-themed camps, educational library programs, field trips and even a short walk outdoors and kids naturally go together. Let's keep nature in the minds of our next generation.

Today's generation of children, at least many of them, are heavily involved in the world of computers. The fact is that this is the way of today's modern world. I still know a few "old-timers" that have never been on a computer but haven't found many youngsters that don't use them on a regular basis. In some cases, other areas of interest and importance tend to fall behind or are completely eliminated in children's daily activities. Getting outdoors and learning about our natural world is often one of these neglected topics.



Jerry Walls

I work with all levels and types of demographic, socioeconomic and ethnic groups in my nature programs. All ages attend my programs but it is refreshing that many participants are children. Many children who live in urban areas do not have many opportunities to experience nature as those who live outside the city do. Many children who live in the city marvel at the sight of a rabbit. Something that many of us take for granted. If a bit of luck shines on them, to see a deer or other large animal is comparable to something "out of Africa!"

Mention snakes, alligators, turtles, frogs, fish, insects, mammals and other types of animals to a group of children and observe what their reactions are. For the most part there is an instant charge of energy and enthusiasm in the room. Many of the children will squirm forward to get closer to the mysterious boxes on the table at the front of the room. All kinds of guesses are offered as to what is in the boxes. And the kids always notice the air holes in the animal's travel boxes! Well before the adults usually do. All this takes place while many of the adults move towards the back of the room!

Showing a group of children a live educational animal is an experience in itself. In most cases, the live animals always are the highlight of the program. It is amazing to see the expressions on many of the children's faces when you open up a box and bring out a live educational animal. In many cases, urban children have never seen even the common animals that children living in the country have.

This is when the many interesting questions about the animal usually bombard the presenter. Mixed in are inquiries such as, "Can I touch it?" or "Can I hold it?" Eyes, mouths and minds are wide open. It is a great feeling to be involved in this scenario. Educating our children about our natural world is a great opportunity to provide a bit of balance to our modern, technologically focused world.

Sharing nature with children is, for the most part, a labor of love. Not many environmental educators drive around in luxurious vehicles or live in upper class neighborhoods. I have duct tape holding my wallet together if this tells you anything. However, I am rich in other ways. Rich in the heart knowing that if one child learns one thing from one of my programs and passes this on it is all worth it! Rich in the fact that when in a local store, I hear a child's voice excitedly say, "There's Mr. Jerry, the animal guy!"

And whatever happened to seeing kids outside climbing trees, dipping a net in a pond to catch minnows or tadpoles? Or engaging in another simple yet fun and educational outdoor activity?

There are several places to take children to enjoy the many opportunities that nature has to offer. Visit a local nature center, park, museum, zoo or educational program. Even a walk in your own backyard! Something as simple as making a circle with a rope and discovering all the creatures living inside the circle can be lots of fun and very educational as a bonus. You never know what life-long interest you might inspire in a child by doing this.

Please encourage our children to get outdoors and experience and learn about the wonders of our great natural world. Let's not leave the "Last Child in the Woods!" They are nature's future.

"If we are going to save the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature." Richard Louv, 2005.

Enjoy your North Florida nature trails ... with your children.

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

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FORMER CATS

Boone makes Vikings Others open college season

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
sports@bakercountypress.com

College football season has officially kicked off for a dozen former BCHS Wildcat football stars. Professionally, one ex-Cat survived preseason cuts to make an NFL roster, and another continued to make an impact after recently returning from injury.

All games were played on September 1 unless otherwise noted.

• Free agent running back Mike Boone earned a spot on the Minnesota Vikings 53-man roster following a productive preseason. The undrafted free agent was one of four running backs the Vikings kept after cutting the roster down from 90 players for the September 1 deadline. He joined Dalvin Cook, Latavius Murray and fellow undrafted rookie Roc Thomas as part of Minnesota's running back group.

Boone rushed for a game-high 56 yards and added two catches for 53 yards on August 30 as the Vikings closed the preseason with a 13-3 road win against the Tennessee Titans.

The Vikings open the regular season on September 9 against the visiting San Francisco 49ers. Fox will broadcast the game at 1 p.m.

• Linebacker Bear Woods' Toronto Argonauts lost their second straight game when they fell 42-28 on the road to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on September 3. Woods, who was playing in his second game of the season after returning from injury the previous week, once again led Toronto's defense. He recorded a game-high nine defensive tackles and added a special teams tackle.

The Argos (3-7) are scheduled to host the Tiger-Cats (5-5) on September 8 at 1 p.m.

• Sophomore defensive lineman Quan Griffin's Georgia Southern Eagles kicked off their season with a 37-6 home win over South Carolina State. Griffin recorded two total tackles and a half-sack.

The Eagles (1-0) host the UMass Minutemen (1-1) on September 8 at 6 p.m. The game will stream on ESPN+.

• Freshman running back Seth Paige rushed for seven yards on three attempts in his collegiate debut on August 30, and his Georgia State Panthers won 24-20 over visiting Kennesaw State.

Georgia State (1-0) is scheduled to visit the North Carolina State Wolfpack (1-0) on September 8 at 12:30 p.m.

• Sophomore offensive lineman Travion Clayton's Southern Miss Golden Eagles blew out visiting Jackson State 55-7.

Southern Miss (1-0) hosts the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks (1-0) on September 8 at 7 p.m. on ESPN3.

• Senior defensive lineman CeCe Jefferson's Florida Gators rolled 53-6 over Charleston Southern to open the season. Jefferson was one of seven Gators who were suspended for the game, and he was out for "academic-related issues," ESPN staff writer Alex Scarborough quoted a news release as saying.

Florida (1-0) hosts the Kentucky Wildcats (1-0) on September 8. The game is set to air on the SEC Network at 7:30 p.m.

• Freshman offensive lineman Cooper Hodges' Appalachian State Mountaineers nearly stunned No. 9 Penn State, but the Nittany Lions escaped with a 45-38 home victory to avoid the Week 1 upset. The Mountaineers briefly took the lead during their 28-point fourth quarter, and a 56-yard field goal attempt that would have regained the advantage with 15 seconds remaining sailed wide right.

Appalachian State (0-1) visits the Charlotte 49ers (1-0) on September 8. The game will stream on ESPN+ at 6 p.m.

• Senior linebacker Blayne Merchant had three total tackles on August 31 as his Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers shut out hosting Anna Maria 54-0.

WPI (1-0) is set to visit Rensselaer (1-0) on September 8.

• Redshirt sophomore defensive back Mondrell Jefferson's Valdosta State Blazers rolled 45-14 over visiting Albany State.

The Blazers (1-0) play Fort Valley State (0-1) in a neutral site game in Waycross, GA on September 8 in the Okefenokee Classic.

• Junior tight end Kenny Hall's Southeastern Fire bounced back from their season-opening loss with a 38-21 road win over North Carolina's St. Andrews.

The Fire (1-1) host the University of God's Chosen on September 8. The game will stream online at <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/southeastern/> at 7 p.m.

• Freshman defensive back Jamon Jones' Webber International Warriors improved to 2-0 with a 45-9 home blowout over the NAIA's No. 19 Campbellsville University.

The Warriors have a week off before visiting Virginia's Bluefield College on September 15.

• The Edward Waters Tigers fell to 0-2 on the year with a 50-13 home loss to fifth-ranked Lindsey Wilson. Freshman defensive linemen Tay Reed (two tackles) and Brian West (one tackle) once again saw the field early in their collegiate careers.

The Tigers visit Alabama's Point University on September 8.

• Freshman running back Josh Haygood's Malone Pioneers fell 42-27 at home to NAIA's No. 16 Concordia.

The Pioneers (0-1) host Lake Erie (0-1) on September 8 in an early-season Great Midwest Athletic Conference game.

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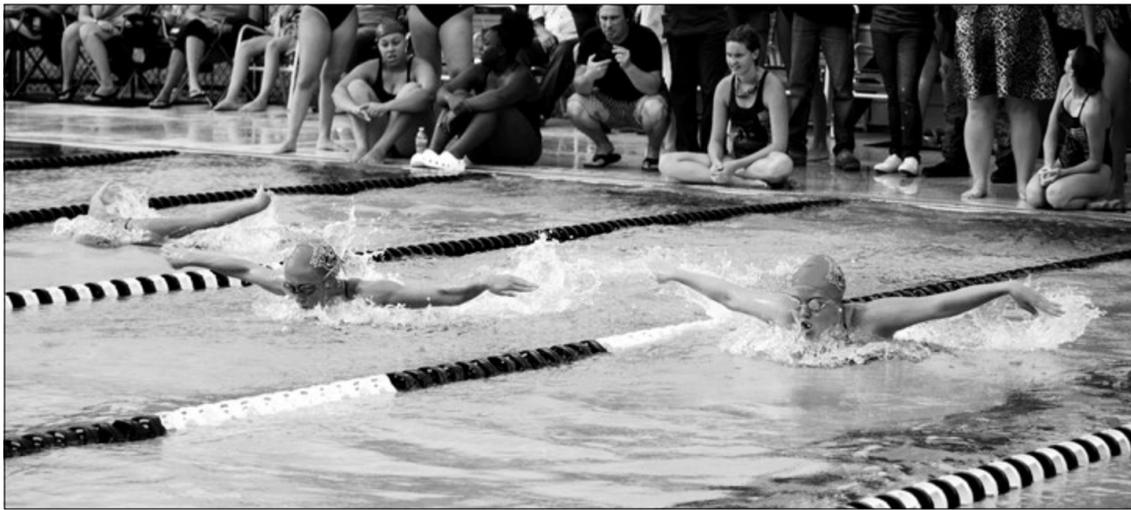
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SPORTS



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Photos by Jessica Prevatt

Cheyenne Powell (center) and Gracie Wainright (right) swim the butterfly in Baker County's tri-meet victory of Columbia and Baldwin.

B-Cats prevail in a turnover-filled conference debut

JON SHUMAKE | SPORTS EDITOR
sports@bakercountypress.com

In an opening game plagued with turnovers, it was a near giveaway that helped the BCMS Bobcats make a successful Northeast Florida Athletic Conference debut.

Sixth-grader Ke'Nais Williams scored the go-ahead third-quarter touchdown after scooping up a botched hand-off, and the B-Cats opened the season with a 16-14 win at Lake Asbury on August 28.

"It was a little seesaw battle. It was a slugfest," offensive coordinator Tucker Roberts said on August 30. "We expected them to be kind of big, kind of fast. That's a hard match-up for your first game because you've got a lot of brand new kids on this team. ... It was all defense that day."

The two teams combined for about a half-dozen turnovers in the game, coach Roberts said, which included two defensive touchdowns.

The Tigers returned an interception for a touchdown in the first quarter, and carried an 8-0 lead into halftime. Baker County lost two fumbles in the first half, one of which came in the closing minutes after Jaylin Maiden's 60-yard run moved the ball deep inside the red zone.

"The first half was basically fumble, fumble, fumble for us, which is odd because two weeks out here at practice we probably only fumbled the ball once and had one bad practice," coach Roberts said. "I think it was like nerves. Just trying to do too much."

The B-Cats (1-0) took advantage of a pair of third-quarter fumbles to pull away. Orlando Holland helped tie the game with a scoop-and-score on a Lake Asbury fumble he returned about 70 yards to the end zone, coach Roberts said. Walker Avera punched in the 2-point conversion to equalize the score.

Another fumble recovery on Lake Asbury's ensuing drive set up Williams' score.

Coach Roberts said the coaches were content with letting the third quarter end with the ball deep in Lake Asbury's territory following a long run by Maiden. But the offense snapped the ball, and the hand-off attempt bounced off the running back's elbow, coach Roberts said.

Williams picked it up and plunged into the end zone to give the B-Cats the lead for good.

"He scored his first touchdown," coach Roberts said. "He told me he wasn't supposed to get the ball. I was like, 'I know, but you got it anyhow.'"

The Tigers scored a late touchdown to cut the score to 16-14. A punt by Avera backed up Lake Asbury to its own 5 yard line, and another defensive fumble recovery allowed Baker County to drain the clock and seal the win.

"The defense saved us a lot," said coach Roberts, who added the B-Cats also blocked a first-quarter punt. "... The defense came through, man, all night long."

Baker County was originally scheduled to make its home debut on September 4 against Lakeside in a North Division game. The contest was rescheduled to September 5 and moved to Ridgeview with a 6 p.m. kickoff.

The game was one of four this season that count toward tournament seeding.

"One thing about [Lakeside] that I did see on film, man, they go hard every play. They play 100 percent," coach Roberts said. "We told [the players], 'You just got to remember these guys are going to give you everything they got. Just have fun, man.'"

Wildcats sweep first tri-meet

JON SHUMAKE
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The BCHS Wildcat swim team's season opening meet was delayed several times on August 30, but in the end the swimmers made the results worth the wait.

Baker County won 15 of the 24 events as the team outscored Columbia 1161-729 and Baldwin 1173-331 at the tri-meet held the YMCA pool on Lowder Street.

Braeden Knight and Trent Mobley both won a pair of individual events to lead the boys over Columbia 582-388 and Baldwin 600-99. LoriAnn Bliss and Mady-Belle Ash also won two individual events each as the ladies sank Columbia 579-341 and Baldwin 573-232.

The meet was postponed several times due to weather, equipment issues and medical reasons.

Bliss (6 minutes, 40.06 seconds), Christina Slater (6:44.67) and Hannah Peterson (7:00.30) swept the top three positions in the Girls 500-yard freestyle. Bliss (28.46) and Natasha Turner (29.20) also finished one-two in the Girls 50 freestyle. Cheyenne Croft (30.01) took fourth and Madison Sapp (44.15) eighth in the latter event.

Ash won the first individual event of the meet, the Girls 200 freestyle with a time of 2:15.12. Christina Slater (2:30.59) finished third and Savanna Powell (2:59.46) took sixth.

Ash also comfortably topped the Girls 100 backstroke with a time of 1:11.37. Gracie Rogers (1:34.90) and Savanna Powell (1:37.32) finished third and fourth, respectively.

Mobley paced the field in both the Boys 200 individual medley (2:11.83) and 100 breaststroke (1:04.89) Andrew Rosepiler (2:32.58) and Ryan Jacobs



Trent Mobley swims the butterfly portion of the 200-yard individual medley.

(2:41.00) took third and fourth in the IM, and Domenick Endel (1:21.28) and Dakota Walker (1:26.88) finished in the same positions in the breaststroke.

Knight finished atop the Boys 100 butterfly with a time of 53.37. Endel clocked in a third-place time of 1:17.00 and Landon Prevatt (1:19.50) took fourth.

Knight also won the Boys 200 freestyle with a time of 1:48.97. Dalton Ray (2:33.76) finished fifth and Haydon Bridges (3:12.03) took sixth.

Seth Crawford rounded out Baker County's individual winners with a first-place time of 5:29.59 in the Boys 500 freestyle. Rosepiler (6:18.76) finished fourth and Walker (7:29.46) fifth.

In addition to the individual events, Baker County also won six relay races.

The Girls 200 medley relay team — Ash, Cheyenne Powell, Peterson and Bliss — opened the meet with a first-place outing of 2:12.82. The B-team of Croft, Gracie Wainright, Brianna Thornton and Turner came in second place with a time of 2:18.40.

Turner joined Bliss, Ash and Peterson on the first-place Girls 200 freestyle relay team, which clocked in at 1:58.35. The B-team of Cadee Crawford, Haley Harris, Savanna Powell and Slater finished third with a time of 2:29.45.

Slater, Croft, Wainright and Thornton finished first in the Girls 400 freestyle relay with a time of 4:43.46. The B-team — Cheyenne and Savanna Powell, Rogers and Harris — swam a third-place time of 5:44.81.

The team of Crawford, Mobley, Knight and Platto won both the Boys 200 medley relay (1:46.59) and Boys 200 freestyle relay (1:37.15). Rosepiler, Endel, Jacobs and Prevatt finished third in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:59.31, and the squad of Walker, Ray, Bridges and Tyler Altland took third in the Boys 200 freestyle relay with a time of 2:14.53.

The Boys 400 freestyle relay team — Prevatt, Endel, Jacobs and Rosepiler — ended the meet with a first-place outing of 3:56.53.

In the Boys 50 freestyle, Platto (24.22), Crawford (25.07) and Prevatt (25.52) finished second through fourth. Platto (55.89) and Jacobs (59.94) also took second and third in the Boys 100 freestyle. Altland (1:33.88) finished in sixth in the 100 freestyle.

Wainright (1:26.89), Cheyenne Powell (1:31.20) and Peterson (1:37.87) finished second through fourth in the Girls 100 breaststroke.

Wainright also took second in the Girls 200 IM with a time of 3:00.76. Cheyenne Powell (3:04.09) finished third and Thornton (3:18.31) fourth in the event.

Thornton (1:08.57) and Harris (1:29.60) claimed third and fifth, respectively in the Girls 100 freestyle.

Ray also clocked a third-place time of 1:20.82 in the Boys 100 backstroke. Bridges (1:43.93) and Altland (2:02.31) finished fifth and sixth.

Baker County's swim team is scheduled to return to competition September 6 in another home tri-meet featuring Suwannee and Hilliard.



Dixie Raulerson tips up the ball.

PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

Lady Cats continue streak in a five-set thriller

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It wasn't as easy as their previous two games, but the BCHS Lady Wildcats still found a way to pull out their third straight win.

Baker County escaped with a 3-2 (25-17, 15-25, 25-18, 23-25, 15-12) victory over Clay on August 31 to improve to 3-1. The decisive final set featured eight lead changes, and was indicative of the match as a whole.

Whenever the Lady Cats were poised to take control, Clay found a way to sneak back into the game. The same was true for Baker County when Clay had a chance to pull away.

And in the end, the Lady Cats were the ones to seize the momentum when it mattered most.

The final of Dixie Raulerson's nine kills broke a 12-all tie in the fifth set and put the Lady Cats ahead for good. Madison Barton capped off the back-and-forth contest with a pair of aces to seal the win.

Barton led Baker County with 20 kills, five of which came during the team's 11-3 run that ended the third set. After splitting the first two sets, Clay appeared in control as it built an early 6-0 advantage in the set. But the Lady Cats clawed back as Cassidi Beaver's ace fully erased the deficit and put the ladies ahead 11-10.

The teams traded the lead three more times before one of Blakely Mallory's eight kills sparked the set-ending run.

But Baker County couldn't put the match away in the fourth set.

The ladies trailed by as many as five points in the fourth set and battled back to tie the score multiple times, including at 23-all with Mallory's kill. A volley into the net and a return out of bounds allowed Clay to escape with the fourth set and force the winner-take-all fifth set.

Allyson Crossland had a team-high five aces, and ended Baker County's first set win with her second one. Raulerson added four aces.

Rachel Mechum recorded 35 assists and her



Blakely Mallory spikes the ball on the Wolfson defenders.

10 digs were second only to Kiki Carter's 12.

The JV Lady Cats stayed perfect on the season with a 26-24, 25-18 sweep over the Clay's JV squad.

Shelby Grimes, Mariah Green and Jae Moore each had four kills for the JV ladies, who improved to 4-0.

Kennady Godwin, who had five aces, tied the first set at 24-all with a kill as the team was on the brink of dropping the set. A pair of diving digs by Courtney Barnard highlighted the final two points of the first set, which ended when Clay's volley failed to cross the net.

Barnard led the team with 10 assists and her six digs were second to Taylor Crews' seven.

Baker County had a much easier second set, leading by as many as 10 points before Clay put a small dent into the gap late.

Lady Cats sweep Wolfson

The BCHS Lady Wildcats aced their first District 4-6A match of the season.

The Lady Cats totaled 31 aces on August 31 and rolled 25-9, 25-12, 25-7 over Wolfson for their second straight home sweep. Raulerson led the team with seven aces, four of which

came during Baker County's eight-point third-game run that added cushion to a previous one-point lead.

Skye Miller and Kayla Welch both added six aces. Miller served four aces to help the team open a 10-0 lead to start the first game. Welch had just as many in the second game, including aces that gave the Lady Cats the lead after a slow start and another that ended the set.

Despite the aces, Baker County service errors accounted for 13 of Wolfson's 28 points in the match. Fifth-year head coach Ashley Holton said she was happy with the amount of aces, but the team still had room for improvement.

"Really the kids showed no fear," she said. "They were just getting back there and serving as hard as they could and showing no fear of what happens with the serves."

"We didn't serve the way we should have. We definitely had more missed serves tonight than I wanted, but I told the kids, 'If your aces completely override your missed serves then we can overlook a little bit of that.' Going into future play I don't want to see as many missed serves as we had."

Barton recorded 10 kills and three blocks. Mechum (13) and Beaver (9) led in assists, and Mechum's lone ace sealed the victory.

The JV Lady Cats also swept Wolfson's JV squad 25-9, 25-16. The ladies had 19 aces, and were led by Barnard's six. Jalyann Harvey also had four aces.

Abbey Price recorded six kills and Grimes had four in the sweep.

The Lady Cats host Westside on September 6 in a district contest and Bishop Snyder on September 10.

"These kids have good chemistry together. They've been together for a long time," coach Holton said. "... With these six seniors they've been together for these four years. They've been playing together since then. From here on out all I see is the chemistry growing stronger through this."



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Kelton Knabb plunges into the end zone for the first touchdown in Baker County's 13-8 win at Ed White.

Photos by Jud Johnson



Alex Bowen looks for an open receiver while rolling out.

Cats grind out first win

Knabb, Graham score TDs

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The offense did just enough. The defense took care of the rest.

Running backs John Green and Scooby Graham combined for nearly 240 yards on August 31, and the BCHS Wildcats outlasted the hosting Ed White Commanders 13-8 for their first win of the young season. Baker County's defense limited the effectiveness of Ed White's Isaiah Flowers and shut out the Commanders in the second half to help the Cats (1-1) preserve their slim lead.

"We didn't make things easy on ourselves at all, but that's coach (Kevin) Sullivan's third year there," head coach Jamie Rodgers said on Monday. "... He's a Hall of Fame football coach. We knew he was going to have their guys better."

"... So much better than being 0-2," he later added. "The guys need to taste a win. Those young guys need to taste a win."

All the scoring came during a four-minute span of game time sur-

rounding halftime, which broke up the defensive stalemate that made up much of the game.

Graham carried the load on Baker County's four-play scoring drive that opened the second half and gave the Cats the lead for good. The sophomore rushed for all 67 yards on the drive, including the go-ahead 6-yard touchdown run 70 seconds into the third quarter.

He rushed for 93 yards in the game, and set up his first touchdown run of the season with a 40-yard burst one play earlier.

"Scooby's one of those special talents. He's one of those 10th grad-

ers that has to play for us," coach Rodgers said. "When you got a talent like his he definitely has to play on varsity for us. I tell him all the time, 'If your name's in the paper for the good stuff this could be a really fun next three years for you.'"

Baker County's defense controlled the second half to hold onto the five-point lead. The unit recovered a fumble, forced three turnovers on downs and two punts as it held the opposing offense scoreless after halftime for the second straight game.

Isaiah Flowers, who rushed for more than 200 yards and five

touchdowns in Week 1, ran for 119 yards, but was held to just 13 yards in the final two quarters.

"To hold [Flowers] to that and to hold them to eight points was very good," coach Rodgers said. "... We haven't given [a touchdown] up on the ground yet, which is pretty impressive, also. Pass defense has been fine."

Still, Ed White twice moved the ball into the red zone in the third quarter with a chance to steal the lead.

Quarterback Chaz Hirschman connected with Zorian Stanton on an 82-yard catch-and-run that gave the Commanders the ball inside the 10 yard line. The Cats held strong, tackling Flowers for a loss and forcing three straight incompletions to end the threat.

Ed White moved the ball back into the red zone on their following possession, but a third-down fumble backed the Commanders up to the 26 yard line. A fourth-down throw fell incomplete.

The Commanders scored on just one of their four trips into the red zone. Ed White carried an 8-7 lead into halftime after Hirschman threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Shawnell Hall with 30 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

Flowers, who had a 37-yard run

during the drive, ran in the 2-point conversion from the Wildcat formation.

Green rushed for about half of his game-high 140 yards during Baker County's 69-yard scoring drive that began about midway through the second quarter. He bounced off a tackle and cut to the outside for a 22-yard run, which set up Kelton Knabb's 1-yard touchdown run one play later.

"The only thing I can tell you why those two really good drives happened is because everybody was moving as an 11-man unit and we were getting all the blocks, no missed assignments, no penalties," coach Rodgers said.

Green, a senior, sat out about half the third quarter following the long run that set up the first score of the game. But he sealed the victory by gaining a pair of fourth-quarter first downs that allowed the Cats the drain the final 3:24 off the clock.

More than a half-dozen sophomores saw the field against Ed White, coach Rodgers said. The team's youth has left plenty of room to grow as the season progresses.

"We're not clicking on very many cylinders at all, so it's easy to come to practice and work on things you need to do better," coach Rodgers said. "This team's got ton of improvement we can do, which is a good thing leading on into the season."



Wesley Staggs wraps up running back Isaiah Flowers.

Wildcats visit struggling Ribault on Friday

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The Ribault Trojans have struggled this season while dealing with a revamped roster.

Ribault lost 25 seniors from last year's 7-4 team, which won the program's second straight District 3-5A title and resulted in its third consecutive playoff appearance. But with only six returning starters from last year, the roster turnover has forced a number of underclassmen into significant playing time, including start-

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ing freshman quarterback Chris Calhoun.

"They're like us: A ton of seniors last year and very

young," head coach Jamie Rodgers said.

But some of the young players have already flashed

major talent.

Sophomore Chris Johnson, who plays both tight end and linebacker, has already drawn an offer from Miami.

The offense, however, has struggled to find success early in head coach Kelvin Smith's third season.

Ribault has been outscored by a combined 68-8 by Sandalwood and Trinity Christian to open the season. The Trojans have surrendered 11 turnovers already, and Trinity recorded three defensive scores — a safety, pick six and fumble

recovery in the end zone — during last week's 47-0 blowout.

Coach Rodgers expects a better offensive outing by the Trojans this week despite Baker County's impressive defensive start to the season. The Cats have held opponents to a combined 22 points and have forced four turnovers.

"They kind of imploded with turnovers and stuff," he said of Ribault's loss to Trinity. "I don't think we'll see that. I think we'll see a better game."

Echols paces Baker County in a muddy opener

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The BCHS Wildcat cross country team braved sloppy conditions on September 1 as they made their season debut at the Bradford Cross Country Invitational, which had runners representing 11 schools.

"The runners experienced every bit of a cross country meet except for hills," head coach Pamela Robinson wrote in an email on September 3. "Water, mud, roots, pavement, turns, straights and did I mention water? It was a swamp!"

Senior Jacob Echols finished 19th out of 73 runners with a time of 23 minutes, 22 seconds to lead the boys team, which finished eighth out of the teams that had enough runners to qualify. Eastside High School took first place in the boys' competition.

"An amazing time considering the rough terrain," coach Robinson wrote.

Fellow senior Jared Brown (29:35) finished 55th and junior Juan Torres (31:12) took 59th. Junior Kyler Holton (40:34) and senior Michael Davis (46:30) rounded out the boys' results.

New junior runner Marissa Brown led the Lady Cats as she placed 17th out of 50 competitors with

a time of 32:29. Junior Cassie Turner (33:26) finished 23rd, sophomore Taylor Siefert (34:18) took 29th following a bad fall on roots, coach Robinson wrote, and sophomore Kaitlynn Daniels (41:58) came in 46th.

"We were very leery of the course due to all the rain the area has had and with the information shared by the race coordinator," the coach explained. "My runners have been trained and told many times that every race is different and times will always vary. Just run the race set before you and you come out a winner!"

The cross country team was scheduled to travel to Yulee on September 4.

Bandits to host a free clinic

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The Baker Bandits Soccer Club has been chosen to once again host a free Chevy Youth Soccer Clinic at Raiford Road Church.

Registration for the camp scheduled for October 4 is now open online at <https://www.chevrolet.com/youth-sports>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Clinic Registration" and choose the soccer clinic. The Macclenny clinic is listed under the Jacksonville area and use the password "kick it" to register.

The camp, which is set to run from 6-9 p.m., is open to players through high school seniors. Baker Bandits Soccer Club is asking those interested to register as soon as possible so they can know an approximate number of players attending.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity again and we hope to see you all out there again!" the club wrote in a message.

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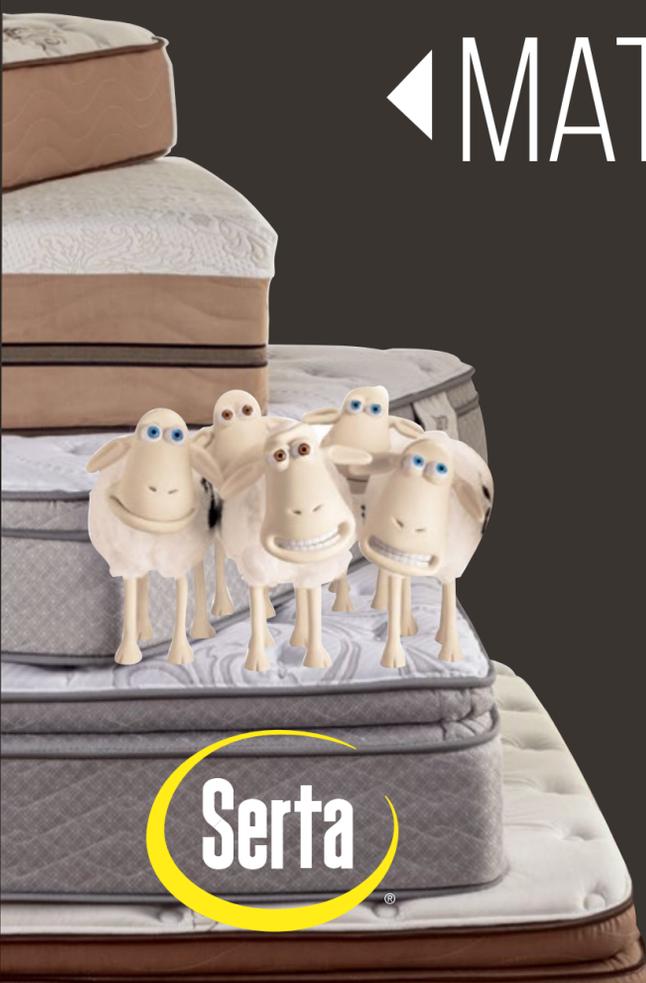
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