



# THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

89TH YEAR | VOLUME 24

OCTOBER 4, 2018

AT A GLANCE

THINGS TO DO

OCTOBER 4

BCHS swim Senior Night

4:30 p.m.

Baker County YMCA, 98 W. Lower St.

The BCHS swim team will honor its seniors during its tri-meet against Yulee and Middleburg.

BCMS Lady Bobcat A-Team Volleyball vs Wilkinson

5:30 pm

Baker County Middle School, 211 Jonathan St.

The No. 2 seed Lady B-Cats host Wilkinston in the quarterfinal match.

Chevy Youth Soccer Clinic

6 - 9 p.m.

Raiford Road Church, 9201 South State Road 121

The Baker Bandits Soccer

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MORE NEWS



More fair arts winners

See page 7

Go vote ...

Should the City of Macclenny residents pay more for police than non-city?

Yes 17%

No 74%

Undecided 9%

bakercountypress.com

Rate of owning homes high here

Page 4



Macclenny firefighters donned pink T-shirts Tuesday morning in honor of breast cancer awareness month. They'll be wearing them all month long, Lt. Rick Diggs said.

## Spreading awareness

In addition to fighting fires, Macclenny Fire Rescue personnel are sporting the color pink throughout October in efforts to fight breast and other cancers.

Firefighters exposed to carcinogens and other chemicals while on the job are disproportionately diagnosed with breast cancer – just one of many cancers linked to the work firefighters do, states a press release from the department issued this week.

"With one in eight women diagnosed with breast cancer each year, an estimated 304,010 new cases and 45,920 deaths are expected in 2018. Among all women

affected, 85 percent have no family history," said the statement.

"Firefighters are motivated to get involved for many reasons, and often it's because they have been personally affected by the disease," says Rick Diggs, a lieutenant with the department and a member of IAFF Local 5173.

"We are supporting breast cancer awareness and prevention by encouraging others to give so that no breast cancer patient goes without life-saving treatments or having hope for a cure," he said.

While everyone is at risk for breast

cancer, the two most important risk factors are being female and getting older. Most women diagnosed with breast cancer have no other known factors. To help reduce your risk, be sure to maintain a healthy weight, eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercise and limit alcohol consumption.

Macclenny Fire Rescue is encouraging everyone in the community to participate in breast cancer awareness and prevention activities. For more information, contact the Macclenny Association of Professional Firefighters L5173 at rdiggs@cityofmacclenny.com.

## Six kids found living in squaller

The sheriff's department arrested a Macclenny woman on September 26 following a complaint by her mother that led detectives to a Hickory Street residence where six juveniles were living amid roach infestation and other squalid conditions.

Crystal Cole, 32, was summoned back to the address that afternoon from her job, and charged with felony child neglect.



Crystal Cole

Deputy Jared Sharman said he and other officers inspected the home's interior to find children ranging in age from infants up to 14 years being supervised that day by the suspect's mother Elizabeth Figge, 56, of Macclenny, who informed them she has mental health problems and is on medication.

Dogs and cats roamed freely inside and animal feces were found in several rooms and on a shower floor.

The residence had no running water, open wires exposed and holes in the wall. The deputy noted piles of dirty clothing on the floor and only a few canned goods in cabinets crawling with roaches.

Ms. Cole admitted that conditions were foul and remarked, "It was bad and I'm trying to work on it," as quoted in the deputy's report.

Ms. Figge said she used the last diaper before police arrived, and there appeared to be no food for the children.

Police in recent months have made other likened discoveries of neglected children, resulting in the felony arrests.

In an unrelated arrest, Eraina Soutamire, 45, of Macclenny was charged on September 26 with felony insurance fraud for attempting to obtain vehicle insurance one hour after she was involved in an ac-

## Nearly killed by the flu

JOEL ADDINGTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Last year the flu killed seven people in Baker County and Ladonna "Sherlene" Johnson of Macclenny was nearly one of them.

Eventually, she was diagnosed with the "influenza A 2009" strain, also known as H1N1 or the swine flu. It's the same strain the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports has been responsible for most of the localized flu outbreaks nationally so far this flu season.

Ms. Johnson, 56, didn't receive a flu shot last year. There were problems with her insurance on her first attempt and she wasn't feeling well on repeat visits for vaccinations at Walmart, which meant she couldn't receive them.

"It just slipped by. I had always gotten the flu shot," she recalled.

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## LAND PLANNING AGENCY

# Illegal lots 'everywhere'

## Planner calls for halt in approvals

JOEL ADDINGTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

For the last six years the county has allowed development of 5-acre-lot subdivisions in 10- and 7.5-acre minimum lot size zoning districts as long as the smaller lots were on paved county roads.

The problem:

County commissioners never updated the county's comprehensive plan to reflect the 2012 policy shift, thus making the smaller lots illegal under state law, interim community development director Susan Fraser told the county's Land Planning Agency (LPA) board last week.

She said while building permits have been issued for these illegal lots and homes have been constructed, should they burn down and sustain substantial storm damage, they

will not be eligible for new building permits to repair or replace the homes, at least not without further action by the county commission.

Ms. Fraser pledged during the September 27 meeting to work with the county attorney this month to declare the homes built between 2012 and now conforming lots eligible for future building permits.

But she also recommended that the county cease approving these illegal lots and work to revise the comprehensive plan to properly reflect the county's policy intention.

She said early this week it's not yet known how many homes would be affected by the ordinance, however last week, she said there are many homeowners with illegal 5-acre lots approved prior to 2012 that could be in trouble should their properties be damaged or destroyed in the future.

According to her research of past actions by county planners, the LPA and commissioners, an ordinance was approved in July 2012 to amend the county's land development regulations to establish an exemption to subdivision per-

"You can record a deed for a 1-square-foot parcel and sell it. But it doesn't mean you can put anything on it."

—Interim community development director Susan Fraser



the LPA and commissioners, an ordinance was approved in July 2012 to amend the county's land development regulations to establish an exemption to subdivision per-

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# Flu: Death rate twice state rate

From page 1

By January she began to get symptoms.

"I felt extremely sick. It kind of hurt all over. High fever of 102, 103 sometimes. Nothing would make it go away. It would come down but didn't go away," she said of the fever.

Her doctor prescribed antibiotics thinking it was a sinus infection because a test for H1N1 came back negative. But her condition worsened with nausea and trouble breathing. She was back at the hospital in mid-January when she passed out in a quarantine area.

She eventually ended up at UF Health in Gainesville where she was diagnosed with H1N1 influenza, which led to pneumonia, multi-organ failure and sepsis.

"All of those should have killed me," said Ms. Johnson, who has already gotten her flu shot for this season.

Under a medically-induced coma she was placed on an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine that temporarily replaces lung function, allowing the lungs to rest and heal. After several operations and blood transfusions, "I started to get better, little by little," she said.

"When I woke up, I was full of joy. Everything was amazing. I went to sleep depressed and suicidal and woke up elated, full of joy and I wanted to do the Lord's work," she said, crediting her survival to God but also the ECMO machine.

Still, others in Baker County were not so lucky during last year's flu season, when Baker County had seven deaths attributed to influenza or pneumonia, the highest number of deaths since 2010 when eight locals died.

And while the state age-adjusted

## INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA DEATH RATES

Year	Number of deaths in Baker County	County Rate	Florida Rate
2017	7	25.8	9.8
2016	4	14.8	9.6
2015	4	13.7	9.1
2014	6	27.4	9.6
2013	3	15.3	9.7
2012	6	30.6	8.6
2011	4	19.4	9.4
2010	8	40.8	8.6
2009	3	15.0	9.2
2008	5	22.6	8.6
2007	3	15.5	8.7

## 2017 REGIONAL FLU DEATHS

County	Number of deaths	Rate
Union	5	29.9
Baker	7	25.8
Duval	142	14.8
Nassau	16	13.9
Clay	34	13.7
Columbia	10	10.5
St. Johns	25	7.9
Bradford	2	5.2

Source: Floridacharts.com.

All rates are age-adjusted and per 100,000 population.

death rate for flu has averaged 9.17 fatalities per 100,000 people during the last 11 years, Baker County's rate has averaged more than twice that at 21.9 during the same period.

The county also had the second highest flu mortality rate in the region for 2017.

Influenza or the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu virus-

es. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

"The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each fall," said Jose Morales, Baker County Health Department's public information officer, by email.

He said according to the CDC, children from 6 months to 2 years, pregnant women and anyone 50 years or older are most at risk for complications related to the flu virus, and therefore, it's very important for those populations to get vaccinated.

Still, people with weakened immune systems or long-term health problems like asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or extreme obesity have higher risks, too.

Mr. Morales noted that the county health department on West Lowder Street offers free flu vaccines for children ages 6 months to 18. Adults may have some out-of-pocket cost depending on their insurance coverage. The clinic is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Common reactions to the flu vaccine include soreness at the injection site, a slight fever or not feeling well for a day or two. Kids who get the nasal spray vaccine may have a slight runny nose or low fever.

"Severe reactions to the vaccine are very, very rare," said Mr. Morales, who recommended everyone 6 months or older get the flu vaccine before the end of October.

The state department of health reports that flu activity in Florida remains low but modest increases are expected during the coming weeks for the start of the traditional influenza season.

So far this season, the county health department has administered 114 flu vaccines. For information visit to [www.FluFreeFlorida.com](http://www.FluFreeFlorida.com).

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## Insurance fraud

From page 1

cident on June 21. The warrant resulted from an investigation by the



Eraina Stoutamire

state's Bureau of Insurance Fraud, who found that the accused applied online with

Progressive Insurance while still at Fraser Hospital after the accident after which she was issued a citation by a state trooper for not having insurance.

The investigator determined, "Ms. Stoutamire's statements to me are in direct conflict with her statements to Progressive ... and did not volunteer to Progressive employees that she had taken the policy out after the traffic crash and she made blatantly false statements ... when they contacted her to verify the time she made her initial application."

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Keep healthy habits between you & the flu.

- Every year, vaccine before Halloween!
- Wash your hands often with soap & water. Regular soap & water should be your first choice. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer your second choice.
- Don't touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Don't touch or shake hands with people who are sick.
- Clean & disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay home when you're sick & keep your children home when they're sick.
- Cover your mouth & nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands, if you don't have a tissue.
- Pass the turkey not the flu! Get your flu vaccine if you haven't earlier.

Florida HEALTH

## Former BCHS student fatally shoots JSO K-9

JOEL ADDINGTON  
MANAGING EDITOR  
[reporter@bakercountypress.com](mailto:reporter@bakercountypress.com)

A former Baker County High School student was arrested for kidnapping a woman at gunpoint in Jacksonville early Sunday and then fatally shooting a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) K-9 released to apprehend the fleeing suspect.



Jhamel Paskel

Jhamel M. Paskel, 17, of Jacksonville's northwest side allegedly carjacked the victim at a convenience store gas pump about 2:30 a.m. on Lem Turner Road. Her vehicle, a 2018 Chevy Cruze, was enabled with the GPS tracking service OnStar, which led police to the vehicle and suspect.

According to JSO, Mr. Paskel was heading west on the interstate near the Cecil Commerce Center Parkway where OnStar shut off the car's engine remotely.

The suspect then fled on foot and a K-9 officer released his service dog Fang, who was shot and killed by the suspect.

Mr. Paskel was taken into custody a short time later by another K-9 officer's service dog in a wooded area. Police recovered a camouflage mask similar to that described by the victim as well as a handgun in the vicinity.

The suspect was also positively identified by the victim after he was detained. He was then arrested and booked at the Duval County jail.

Mr. Paskel's last known school was listed in the JSO arrest report as Baker County High School.

The Baker County Press Weather
Oct. 4, 2018

### Five Day Forecast

**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 90 Low: 68

**Friday**  
Mostly Sunny  
High: 89 Low: 67

**Saturday**  
Mostly Sunny  
High: 87 Low: 69

**Sunday**  
Isolated T-storms  
High: 85 Low: 71

**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 86 Low: 76

**Tuesday**  
Few Showers  
High: 84 Low: 78

**Wednesday**  
Few Showers  
High: 79 Low: 69

### Today's High & Low Temperatures

**Last Week's Local Almanac**

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Tue, 9/25	95	70	86/64	0.00"
Wed, 9/26	99R	68	85/64	0.04"
Thu, 9/27	97R	70	85/63	0.01"
Fri, 9/28	97R	72	85/63	1.10"
Sat, 9/29	95	70	85/63	0.03"
Sun, 9/30	91	70	85/62	0.14"
Mon, 10/1	90	73	84/62	0.00"

**Precipitation** ..... 1.32"  
**Normal precipitation** ..... 1.09"  
**Departure from normal** ..... +0.23"  
**Average temperature** ..... 82.6°  
**Average normal temperature** ..... 74.0°  
**Departure from normal** ..... +8.6°

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

### Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday	7:23 a.m.	7:10 p.m.
Friday	7:24 a.m.	7:08 p.m.
Saturday	7:24 a.m.	7:07 p.m.
Sunday	7:25 a.m.	7:06 p.m.
Monday	7:26 a.m.	7:05 p.m.
Tuesday	7:26 a.m.	7:04 p.m.
Wednesday	7:27 a.m.	7:03 p.m.

**St. Mary's River Levels**

Location	Now	Change
Montic, GA	5.41 ft.	-0.06 ft.
Macclenny	5.70 ft.	+0.11 ft.

**Hunting/Fishing Times**

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	8:24-10:24	8:53-10:53
Fri	9:21-11:21	9:49-11:49
Sat	10:16-12:16	10:43-12:43
Sun	--	11:09-1:09
Mon	11:35-1:35	12:01-2:01
Tue	12:26-2:26	12:51-2:51
Wed	1:16-3:16	1:41-3:41

**Weather History**

Oct. 4, 1777 - The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew more dense with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Some Americans accidentally fired at each other, and this contributed to the loss of the battle.

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**THINGS TO DO**

From page 1

Club hosts a free Chevy Youth Soccer Clinic at Raiford Road Church.

**OCTOBER 9**

**Six-week 'Tools to Quit' tobacco classes begin**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Baker County Health Department, 480 W. Lowder St.**

Quit Your Way classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. from October 9 to November 13, 2018. The free six-week class meets once a week at the Health Department (480 West Lowder Street in Macclenny). All participants will receive free nicotine replacement patches, gum or lozenges as well as workbook and materials. For more information or to register call: (904) 482-0189

**BCMS Bobcat football vs Bradford**

6 p.m.

**Memorial Stadium, 169 W. Shuey Ave.**

The BCMS Bobcats will host Bradford with a spot in the Northeast Florida Athletic Conference championship game on the line.

**OCTOBER 10**

**Tobacco Prevention Partnership meeting**  
3 - 4 p.m.

The county's Tobacco Prevention Partnership will convene on October 10 at 3 p.m. at the middle school with the BCMS SWAT club. The partnership's Hayden Stevens said the group's meetings are now monthly in an effort to revitalize the partnership. The public is welcome to attend. The partnership focuses on combating tobacco use, including vaping, among county youth.

**OCTOBER 11**

**BCHS Homecoming Parade**

5 p.m.

**U.S. 90 in downtown Macclenny**

The homecoming parade will begin on U.S. 90 in front of the courthouse and proceed west to the baseball field.

# Some lots may get legal status

From page 1

mitting requirements for certain applicants and create a new 20-acre minimum zoning designation.

Then the following month the county created another exemption after a presentation from county planning staff, who claimed the intent of the ordinance was to permit 5-acre lots on existing county paved roads, even where the zoning called for minimum lot sizes of 7.5 or 10 acres.

"It is on the basis of this discussion and a table included in the recitals of the amended ordinance 2012-11 that the county has approved applications for exemptions to the subdivision regulations that include 5-acre lots ....," wrote Ms. Fraser in her report to LPA members.

She told LPA members the first problem was that the ordinance language itself didn't speak to the 5-acre-lot exemption. Secondly, she said, state law requires that the land development regulations, which the ordinance changed, are consistent with the county's comprehensive plan, which wasn't changed.

Furthermore, state statutes show, "any land development regulations existing at the time of adoption which are not consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan .... shall be amended so as to be consistent ..."

The statute goes on to say that during the amendment process, the most recent version of the comprehensive plan "shall" govern any actions taken on development applications.

"We want to put a stop to that because you really can't do that ....," Ms. Fraser said of the 5-acre-lot exemptions. "Then, as part of a future land use discussion, we can talk about should there be 5-acre lots, and where would they be."

Once those changes are hammered out, she continued, the county should require that new subdivisions conform to the minimum lots sizes designated by their land use and zoning category.

**"I wouldn't recommend reversing past decisions. We need to honor it."**

-LPA member Glen Patten



ty.

"So we're just are trying to put a stop to the practice of approving them. Let everyone know we won't approve them. Everyone has been doing them because the county has said yes. They did nothing wrong. But we really can't continue to do that. But we also don't want to take away the approvals these individuals go," she said.

Still, the challenge will be others who sought and won similar approvals prior to the changes in 2012.

"We get people every single day with lots that are not the right size," Ms. Fraser informed the somewhat shocked board members. "Somebody just went to the clerk's office and recorded the deed and it's not the right size. We spend half our time trying to figure out where these lots came from and we don't want these people to have to go through that process. We want to say you have a legal lot and we recognize it."

But, she said, there are illegal 5-acre lots "everywhere" in the county that will not be eligible for future building permits.

LPA members agreed with the planning director's recommendations, expressing their commitment to upholding the post-2012 approvals for the illegal 5-acre lots.

"I wouldn't recommend reversing past decisions," said member Glen Patten. "We need to honor it."

Member Greg Sheppard asked whether the county could continue to allow the 5-acre lots until the ongoing comprehensive plan update is complete, which is expected for January. Ms. Fraser said the county attorney has advised against it.

a position where the county is acting against its own comp plan and its own zoning when it does this, and it's providing no notice, no advertising."

She said the best legal option is to immediately halt the practice, grandfather in the applications approved since 2012, and then "figure out how to move forward."

How the county moves ahead will surely affect large swaths of county land. Ms. Fraser estimated three-quarters of the county is zoned for lots no smaller than 7.5 acres.

One option, supported by the LPA's Sharon Padgett, could be a mass rezoning from 7.5-acre minimum lots sizes to a 5-acre minimum.

Now Ms. Fraser and other county staff will be determining just how many illegal 5-acre lots exist and where there are located. Some may have been created legally through other exemptions for family lots or homestead divisions.

In other business last week, the LPA panel was set to hear an application from Rayonier for a borrow pit near the Walmart Distribution Center, but the application was tabled because the applicant had yet to present an ownership affidavit that was satisfactory to county attorney Rich Komando. It's expected to be taken up at the October 11 LPA meeting.

# Costume contest for pets!

Start brainstorming now for our Halloween pet costume contest!

The Press will accept photo submissions of pets in costume from October 24 through October 26. The best images as judged by newspaper staff will be posted at www.bakercountypress.com for a public vote October 27 and 28.

The top voted photo will receive a \$10 gift card to Burger King and will be featured in the Halloween edition of The Press!

Email your contest submissions to reporter@bakercountypress.com. We'll also be promoting the contest via our Facebook page where photos may also be submitted. Please include the pet owner's name and contact information.

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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## LAND PLANNING AGENCY

## County homeownership rate's high

JOEL ADDINGTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Last week the county's Land Planning Agency (LPA) was given a primer on Baker County's housing stock in preparation for the ongoing update to the county's comprehensive plan — which outlines broadly the county's goals for land development in the county.

The "comp plan," as it's often called, describes policies for land development while the county's land development regulations, or LDRs, implement those policies with appropriate procedural requirements and rules.

The comp plan consists of various elements governing areas like housing, environmental protection, parks and recreation and others. But last week's presentation from interim community development director Susan Fraser focused squarely on housing.

She reviewed county-level statistics from the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, which is produced by the Shimbler Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida.

Since 1988 the center has worked to "promote safe, decent and affordable housing and related community development throughout the state of Florida," its website declares. The clearinghouse is jointly funded by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the center.

Baker County had an 80 percent homeownership rate between 1990 and 2016, the clearinghouse's data shows.

"That's a high homeownership rate," said Ms. Fraser.

Bradford County, for instance, has a homeownership rate of 73 percent for the same period. It's 75 percent in Clay County and 72 percent in Columbia County.

During the 2012-16 period, three-quarters of the homes owned here with

BAKER COUNTY HOUSING  
BY THE NUMBERS

80%	homeownership rate
\$61,257	owner household median income
\$30,938	renter household median income
82%	households with affordable housing costs (less than 30% of household income).
18%	households with unaffordable housing costs (more than 30% of household income).
246	overcrowded units (more than one person per room), 3% of all occupied units
102	units without fuel/power, 1.2% of all occupied units
150	units without kitchen (sink, stove, fridge), 1.6% of all occupied units
206	units without plumbing, 2.1% of all occupied units

Source: Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse

mortgages carried monthly costs — including taxes, insurance, utilities and association fees — between \$700 and \$1999.

For homes owned without mortgages, nearly 78 percent had monthly costs ranging from \$150 to \$500.

Housing is considered affordable when it costs less than 30 percent of household income and the median household income for a home-owning family of four here is about \$61,000, making monthly costs "affordable" at or below roughly \$1500.

The median household income for a renting family of four is nearly \$31,000 in Baker County, making the affordable threshold about \$775.

Eighty-two percent of households here spend 30 percent or less of their income on housing while 18 percent pay more than 30 percent.

Ms. Fraser said most renters pay between \$500 and \$1000 a month and

some 59 percent of renters here pay less than 30 percent of household income on rent.

About 27 percent of renters pay between 30-50 percent of household income on rent, she said, "which leaves little for other expenses that are pretty primary."

About 14 percent of renters spend more than half their income on housing.

Among households with mortgages instead of rent, some 46 percent pay less than the affordable threshold while 16 percent pay more.

While the local homeownership rate is high and rental costs are on par with those in surrounding counties, there's also a small share of households living without basic amenities, like power and plumbing, or inside overcrowded homes.

The data showed that some 3 percent of all units, or 250, have more people living in them than there are bedrooms in the house.

Just over 1 percent of households have no gas or electric service, 1.6 percent lack a full kitchen with a stove, sink and fridge, and about 2 percent don't have plumbing.

"That's what the government considers substandard housing," said Ms. Fraser.

But those households can be prime candidates for state housing grants.

"When assistance programs come in, we can target these resources, which is what some of these [comp plan] policies ask us to do, target resources for the most needy when it comes to housing ...," she said. "It's not intended to give you a nice new kitchen or a nice picture window."

In terms of home values, about half of the occupied residences here are worth \$150,000 or less with the largest share, about 30.5 percent, falling in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range.

Another 45 percent of homes fall between \$100,000 and \$300,000.

About half of homes have been built since 1980 and some 86 percent were constructed after 1970.

Following Ms. Fraser's presentation on September 27, LPA members discussed what types of housing the county needs more of or less in the future.

The panel's Greg Shep-

pard envisions more "country-squire style" housing, which he compared to newer homes being developed in St. Johns County but located in rural areas similar to Cow Pen Road.

He said deep-pocketed national builders can construct that type housing while smaller, local builders lack the capital to pave roads and install utilities. He said that's led to smaller builders seeking special waivers for paving and other requirements that lead to problems down the road.

"In large part, privately-maintained roads don't work," he said.

The LPA's Sharon Padgett added that new residents leaving more densely populated areas of the region for Baker County are seeking "the best of both worlds," that is the amenities of a subdivision without the restrictions of city laws or homeowners associations.

"... It's very frustrating to know they bought on a dirt road and the first time it gets muddy ... they want a paved road," she said.

Perhaps the county could be a place for both, suggested Ms. Fraser. But, she said, it will take the county demanding more from developers in terms of paved roads and other amenities, as well as new water and sewer infrastructure.

"They [developers] can put it in the cost of the homes ... I don't see why taxpayers should pick up the cost when they profit," commented Ms. Padgett. "Homeowners, sooner or later, are going to come to the county [for help]."

Ms. Fraser agreed, noting that homes on paved roads have higher values and thus expand the county's tax base that much more.

"There's a lifting effect on everything," she said, citing her experiences working for landowners in Clay County.

The mantra to landowners there is, "If you're not building a \$250,000 house on this lot, we'd rather you leave the land vacant," she said, "because that's what it takes to generate enough taxes to pay for all the things people want. So don't be ashamed to say if you can't afford Baker County then maybe Baker County isn't where you want to live."

Ms. Fraser said today housing numbers in Baker County are low, as is the population, but a large-scale development with the financial backing for new roads, schools and utilities could be on the horizon.

"I just want to start talking ... priming your pump a little bit," said the planning director.

In other business that evening, county manager Kenne Downing updated the panel on the county's search for a permanent director for the Community Development department, which is now in its third round of recruitment.

Ms. Downing said seven people applied for the position in the latest round, a list that was narrowed to five for interviews that were expected to commence this week.

Once the slate is narrowed to two or three candidates, she said she'd notify the LPA and county commissioners.

## CIRCUIT COURT

Sentencings on  
September 25

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge James Colaw during regular circuit court session on September 25:

- Antonoinette Alarcon, VOP (probation violation) felony driving on revoked license (habitual offender); 45 days in jail.

- Gregory Barton, grand theft auto; six months in jail.

- James Burton II, possession of prescription drugs, DUI, possession with intent to sell controlled drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia; 12 days in jail, four-year drug offender probation, six-month license suspension, DUI school, remain in custody pending in-patient drug treatment, 50 hours community service, no contact with Dollar General, victim impact statement.

- John Collins, failure to deliver leased property worth \$300 or more; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Tia Grissett, forgery; three-year probation, \$980 restitution.

- Avery Henderson, burglary, grand theft auto; nine months in jail.

- Cheree Matheny, possession of prescription drugs; 13 days in jail, three-year drug offender probation, community service, drug and alcohol addiction evaluation.

- Ashley Raulerson, possession of prescription drugs and paraphernalia; 13 days in jail, three-year drug offender probation, DCF case plan, community service, drug and alcohol addiction probation.

- Timothy Yates Jr., VOP possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of more than 20 grams, possession of prescription drugs and paraphernalia; 25 days in jail, 50 hours community service, obtain a valid driver's license.

## COUNTY COURT

Dispositions from  
session on Sept. 25

The following case dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams during regular county court session on September 25:

- Jazmin Alexander, driving on a suspended license (DWLS); charge dropped.

- Crystal Baker, possession of drug paraphernalia; 59 days in jail.

- Jessica Crump, DWLS, expired license tag; six-month probation, license class, obtain license.

- Guy Dillard, no motorcycle endorsement on license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Lauren Gainey, parent failed to require school attendance; court costs.

- James Denny Hodges, disorderly intoxication; 60 days in jail.

- Lucious Jackson; DWLS; court costs, \$500 fine.

- Sylvester Jackson, no valid driver's license (two counts), resisting arrest; \$1000 fine, two days in jail.

- Zachary Johns, DUI; two days in jail, 12-month probation, 12-month license suspension, Give Back to Baker community service (GBB), attend group addiction meetings and participate in MADD activities.

- Eli Jovel, no valid driver's license; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Douglas Law, no valid driver's license; charge dropped.

- Crystal Malloy, VOP (probation violation); failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Khari McBride, possession of marijuana; six-month probation, submit life plan, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol.

- David Mitchell, no vehicle registration; court costs.

- David Moore, no valid driver's license; license

class, obtain license.

- Stacy Padgett, VOP DWLS; 59 days in jail.

- Chyna Parker, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct; 60-day electronic monitoring, six-month probation, apology letter.

- Brandon Pass, contributing to the delinquency of a minor (two counts), domestic battery, marijuana and paraphernalia possession, violation of pre-trial release for domestic violence; 270 days in jail, 12-month probation, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol or intoxicants, no weapons, parenting class.

- Matthew Perez-Hinson, DWLS; court costs.

- April Sewell, DWLS; 30 days in jail.

- Misty Tressler, disturbing school function, disorderly conduct (two counts each); 12-month probation, 45 hours community service, no alcohol, write essay.

- Robert Weinberg Jr., DWLS, marijuana possession; \$150 fine.

- Susan York, VOP petty theft, DWLS, non-assigned license tag, no vehicle registration; 26 days in jail.

- Randall Brown, VOP petty theft; 180 days in jail.

- Jerry Leroy Davis, VOP resisting arrest; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- Tatum Doss, VOP DWLS, possession of drug paraphernalia; court costs, re-instate probation.

- Octavius Granville, VOP DWLS; 60 days in jail.

- Jordan Kiper, VOP disorderly conduct; failed to appear, warrant issued.

- George Riley IV, VOP no valid driver's license; 28 days in jail.

- Christopher Thornton, VOP criminal mischief, trespassing, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct; 270 days in jail.

Free 9-1-1 address  
signs for Baxter

Attention Moccasin Creek Circle and other Baxter area residents!

The community's Firewise group will be hosting a free 9-1-1 address sign giveaway on Saturday, October 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at the John Bethea State Forest office. The signs are reflective and highly-invisible in case of an emergency.

"GPS is great but it doesn't always work on country roads," said county Firewise coordinator Tanya Anderson by email last week. "Your address sign is how emergency crews will find you when you call 911. Make sure it measures up! ... We can't help you if we can't find you."

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MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

# \$1M fire truck grant is denied

## Total budget to remain at \$9.7 million

MIKE ANDERSON  
PRESS STAFF

The Macclenny City Commission adopted a \$9.7 million operating budget for 2018-19 last week after cutting \$1 million in anticipated revenue from a federal grant earmarked for the fire department that failed to materialize.

The funds had been sought through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to buy a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose fire engine with a 107-foot aerial reach to replace a similar but much older apparatus.

City budget analyst Deanna Dinkins delivered the bad news to the commission the evening of September 25 when the budget was presented for final approval as the only item on the agenda.

"The only change is a \$1,050,000 reduction because we did not get the AFG grant," Ms. Dinkins said. "We're going to see if we can tweak some things and reapply next year."

Fire Chief Buddy Dugger had submitted a lengthy application for the \$1 million grant, which required a \$50,000 match from the city, earlier this year in hopes of replacing a 28-year-old aerial truck often in need of repairs with a more sophisticated piece of equipment featuring far greater pumping capacity and vertical reach.

A memo attached to the final budget last week said that city hall was notified in an email on September 12 that the grant application had been denied. No further explanation was provided but City Manager Phil Rhoden said Chief Dugger had a hunch.

"The chief thought we might have had too many bells and whistles on it," Mr. Rhoden told the board.

The sought-after equipment is re-

ferred to as a "quint" because it serves quintuple functions: a pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders, the same as the present vehicle but to a much greater degree.

In the application the chief stated that a new quint would be useful now, but even more in the future as the city grows:

"The City of Macclenny serves as a bedroom community to the consolidated 800-square mile City of Jacksonville/Duval County. It is located along Interstate 10 thirty miles from Jacksonville. Due to its affordable real estate and proximity to Jacksonville, new residential subdivisions are being built in Macclenny and the City's population is growing.

"Building permits have tripled in the last 5 years and new residential subdivisions are being platted for 200 new homes as well as new industrial and commercial development. Additionally, a 5-story hotel is being built in Macclenny and the 50-foot aerial on the current (vehicle) is inadequate to provide the angle needed to address a fire at this new structure."

Chief Dugger also noted on the application that the present unit has become unreliable.

"Due to its age, the existing quint has frequent breakdowns," he said. "The manufacturer no longer makes parts for the unit. When repairs require parts they must be obtained from junk yards. It often takes weeks to find parts and during that time the unit is completely off line.

"When the quint is off line, the Macclenny Fire Department must call a unit from Jacksonville Fire and Rescue to respond. The closest comparable unit is 45 miles away, so response time is significant."

But the biggest impact a new quint would have, the chief stated, is greater safety for firefighters and the public.

"In many cases, the 50-foot aerial on the current quint does not give the high angle needed to address fires adequately," he wrote on the application. "Units with longer aerials have had to be called from 45 miles away in Jacksonville to respond, and firefighters have had to fight inside the structure to contain the

fire until the unit from Jacksonville arrives. This situation is unacceptable."

After making the necessary adjustment last week the city commission approved an overall budget of \$9,735,951, including \$4,787,589 in the general fund, which became effective October 1. The existing millage rate also was adopted at 3.6 mills, or \$3.60 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value.

Although the rate itself was unchanged it is considered a tax increase under state law because it is 1.72 percent higher than the so-called "rollback rate" of 3.5391 mills, which is the rate that would produce the same amount of tax revenue as last year.

Revenue is up, city officials pointed out, due to new housing construction in the past year, which increased ad valorem tax revenue from \$795,303 to an estimated \$850,009.

The fire department's \$1,455,908 budget, up slightly from last year's \$1,322,967, is the largest component of the city budget, followed by water (\$1,195,779), sewer (\$1,909,655), solid waste (\$971,865), streets (\$504,178), the building department (\$288,802), law enforcement (\$180,000), information services (\$179,630) and recreation (\$170,736).

Following a relatively brief discussion and vote on the budget and millage rate, commissioners devoted about 10 minutes eulogizing and remembering their former colleague on the board, Floyd "Vern" Bennett, who passed away September 18 at the age of 85.

Mr. Bennett, a retired U.S. Army sergeant major, served on the city commission for 28 years from 1987 to 2015 when he retired from public office.

"We lost a great man," said the city manager, who said he was privileged to serve alongside Mr. Bennett on the commission for eight years. "I learned so much from this man. He loved his God, he loved his family, and he loved his community."

Each member expressed terms of endearment for Mr. Bennett, including Commissioner Danny Norton who said he recalled how the former commissioner "always called Macclenny God's little acre."

# Motorcyclist badly hurt after accident

JOEL ADDINGTON  
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

A Macclenny motorcyclist was critically injured early Monday morning exiting I-295 north onto I-10 in west Jacksonville.

Stephen Thomas Jr., 36, reportedly lost control of his 1999 Honda Shadow on the westbound I-10 entrance ramp for an unknown reason, veered off the roadway and landed on the left shoulder next to the motorcycle, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

He was not wearing a helmet during the 2:30 a.m. accident, FHP said.

In an unrelated wreck in

the same area, Macclenny resident Alexander McKenzie, 26, was not injured after a semi-truck collided with her 2014 Dodge Charger about 5:30 p.m.

The crash occurred on I-10 westbound just west of I-295 where the driver of the semi "made an improper lane change resulting in the left side of the rear bumper of the semi-truck trailer impacting the right front fender of the Charger," Trooper J. Thomas reported.

The semi's driver left the scene heading west on I-10. The only description of the semi was that it had a white, enclosed trailer. The crash remains under investigation.

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# Drunk driving arrest on Woodlawn

Police charged a Macclenny man with drunk driving after his vehicle was stopped early on September 28 for no tail lights.

Deputy Trevor Bloxham said he detected an "overwhelming" odor of alcohol when he approached Lee Deblaker Jr., 30, following the traffic stop on Woodlawn Road at 1 a.m. His report also notes that the driver tried three times to present his license.

Mr. Deblaker failed several field sobriety tests before he was taken to county jail where he refused to submit to a breath test.

He was uncooperative and allegedly threatened Cpl. Marc Heath, resulting in an additional charge for a third-degree felony.

In another recent arrest, the same deputy took Andrew Blandford, 27, of Maxwell into custody shortly after 2 a.m. on September 29 for driving on a suspended license and violating terms of his probation for drug cases in 2015.

The officer said he witnessed the suspect's 2004 Ford pickup leave the McDonald's parking lot without stopping, then spin out after making a u-turn on South

Sixth Street.

Mr. Blandford was ticketed for displaying a non-assigned license tag, and charged with violating a curfew and prohibition on drinking alcohol while on probation.

Several others were arrested recently for violation of probation or failing to appear in court for the same charge:

- Jordan L. Kiper, 20, of Macclenny was jailed October 1 for failing to appear in court for violating probation stemming from a disorderly conduct charge. He was sentenced in May to six months

probation.

- Jaime E. Perez, 26, of Jacksonville was arrested the same day on a 2015 warrant for failing to appear for violation of probation from a drug paraphernalia possession case in 2014.

- Daniel K. Kent, 41, of Macclenny was booked October 2 for failing to appear for a trespassing and petit theft case in mid-June.

- Morris L. Walden, 54, of Jacksonville was arrested October 1 for violation of probation stemming from a DUI case last January.

# Gun, drugs in felon's home

Sheriff's department detectives arrested a north county man on drug and other charges after they initially visited his residence on Hassie Johns Drive earlier last month and realized he was not allowed to have a firearm due to his status as a convicted felon.

Detective Thomas Dyal said he noticed Woodrow Burned, 47, had a shotgun behind a door when he went to the address on September 18 to question him as a possible witness to an earlier burglary in Taylor.

Police then learned Mr. Burned had a felony conviction in 1996 and they returned to his residence on September 24 to confiscate a .22 pistol and hunting rifle from his pickup truck. Det. Dyal said the interior of the residence had the odor of

marijuana and Mr. Burned consented to a search that turned up meth in a cigarette pack and a felony amount of pot in a baggie in a bedroom.

In another recent drug arrest, Deputy Trevor Bloxham charged Savannah Westbrook, 19, and Dewayne Sikes, 22, both of Macclenny, with having meth, marijuana and a weighing scale in a backpack found following a traffic stop.

The officer said he stopped a 1997 Mercury driven by Ms. Westbrook late on September 11 after it

ran a stop sign at South Boulevard and Sixth Street and drove into the path of his patrol car.

A baggie of pot was visible on the seat, the deputy said, and he found the backpack on the passenger seat near a console. Some of the marijuana was in small baggies prepared for re-sale.

Both occupants were charged with possession with intent to sell, and possession of the meth and scale. Ms. Westbrook was ticketed for having a non-assigned license tag and for failure to yield right-of-way.

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# Ex-student brandishes pistol On the BCHS campus in dispute over a girlfriend

A Glen St. Mary man described as an ex-student faces several felony counts for allegedly brandishing a pistol at three students on the Baker County High School campus before classes began on September 25.

Griffin Hinson, 18, was taken into custody later that day at his residence on Homestead Place, said campus deputy Johnny Byrd.

Three students, ages 16 and 17, had identified Mr. Hinson as the person who threatened one of them with the .22 caliber weapon recovered at his residence. The report does not specify which student had gotten into the passenger side of the suspect's pickup truck to discuss what was described as a "prior incident" involving an ex-girlfriend.

The accused was said to be on campus that morning just after 7 a.m. to drop off his girlfriend.

He was arrested for aggravated assault and having the gun on campus, both third-degree felonies, and misdemeanor disturbing the peace.

In other recent arrests, a former Department of Corrections and sheriff's department employee was charged early on September 30 with domestic violence.

Deputy Randy Davis described Thomas Kent, 68, as intoxicated with a strong odor of alcohol when he arrived at a residence on Lulu Road in Olustee about 4:30 that morning.

Mr. Kent allegedly snatched keys away from his wife Mary, 63, grabbing her arm, and slapping his nephew John Gillian, 25, of Lake City.

The suspect and nephew returned from a Lake City bar shortly before, and Mr. Kent allegedly became angry accusing the wife of having an affair with his

nephew.

Mr. Gillian declined to sign a statement, saying he didn't want his uncle to get in trouble.

Deputy John Finley arrested Brandon Ruise, 25, of Macclenny for battery on Amhmaad Moring, 18, during a confrontation the evening of September 27.

The incident reportedly was the result of an ongoing feud between Mr. Moring and a third party, the deputy was told. He noted Mr. Moring had a laceration above his left eye, though Mr. Ruise denied striking him. Several others at the scene on South Boulevard refused to make statements, saying they didn't see the altercation.

Sergeants Jimmy Nickles and Ben Anderson arrested Christopher Combs, 41, and Joseph Vanvactor III, 38, of Raiford for fighting outside Gator Patrick's bar in east Macclenny early on September 30.



Griffin Hinson

# Arrest made in high-value tool theft

**JOEL ADDINGTON**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A Glen St. Mary man suspected in the theft of thousands of dollars of tools from a shed on Fred Harvey Road in Sanderson was recently arrested in Macclenny

for his alleged role in the crime, which also involved two other suspects.

Jason M. Tolin, 32, was jailed September 27 on a warrant for grand theft, burglary and dealing in stolen property related to the theft of a white welder valued at more than \$500 and 10 sets

of wrenches valued at \$500 each.

The theft was reported by the tools' owner, Joseph Forbes, the evening of August 20 after his neighbor noticed a white pickup truck, which the victim believed belonged to Mr. Tolin, back up to his shed earlier the same day.

Mr. Forbes said Mr. Tolin was a friend of Dustin L. Rhoden, 32, who had been staying at Mr. Forbes' address.

When interviewed, Mr. Tolin told police he did go to the residence with Mr. Rhoden that evening but it was to retrieve the latter suspect's property, shows a partially redacted offense report from the sheriff's office. Mr. Rhoden, meanwhile, was questioned and denied ever going to the home with Mr. Tolin.

Three days later sheriff's office detectives learned the white welder may be located at Mr. Tolin's parents home inside their shed. When officers attempted to confirm that, the welder was gone but its cart remained in the shed.

Mr. Tolin's father reported seeing the welder in the

shed previously, however, according to Detective David Mancini's account.

The suspect was stopped for a traffic infraction on August 30 and told police then that Mr. Rhoden gave him the welder, which was moved to a friend's house.

He pledged to contact police was the friend returned home so the stolen property could be recovered.

Nearly a month went by with no further contact from Mr. Tolin or two other suspect involved in the case.

The victim, Mr. Forbes, had been in contact with Mr. Rhoden and suspect Kelly J. Prowant, 35, of Glen St. Mary, in early September. He set up a meeting for the welder to be returned at Memorial Park to law enforcement and eventually the victim, Det. Mancini said.

The property was delivered to Deputy John Taylor at the park but the suspects were not arrested.

According to Det. Mancini, numerous efforts to contact the three suspects during September were unsuccessful and warrants were sought for their arrests.

# Full list: Home arts winners at the fair

**Painting**  
*Best of Show* Cathy Mendolera.

*Blue* Susan Alford, Brooklyn Rhoden, Betty Hitt, Denise Melton, Carol Breeze, Carol Anderson, Cathy Mendolera, Theresa Henderson, Jane Combs, Cathy Mendolera, Carol Breeze, Pat Waggoner.

*Red* Hero Alas, Lucille Kennedy, Baileigh Griffis.

**Photography**  
*Best of Show* Larry Preglar, Nora Hammonds and Vera Hammonds.

*Blue* Darlene Rockefeller, Nora Hammonds, Vera Hammonds, Theresa Small, Sharon Boyett, Don Boyett, Kenu Turk II, Katie Small, Kenu Turk II, Larry Pregler.

*Red* Nora Hammonds, Vera Hammonds, Sharon Boyett, Larry Pregler, Sharon Boyett, Don Boyett. White Sarah Strohnetz.

**Quilts**  
*Best of Show* Martha Stalnaker

*Blue* Sierra McGee, Nancy Masterson, Martha Stalnaker, Martha Stalnaker, Martha Stalnaker, Julie McCall, Julie McCall, Marilyn Penrod.

*Red* Julie Bys.

**Sewing**

*Blue* Keelie Turk, Kristyn Boston, Mackenzie Hires, Mackenzie Webb, Skylar Murphy, Sara Green, Andrea Southard, Mika Gray, Mackenzie Hires, Kylee Strickland, Shandria Jones, Letricia Brown.

*Red* Mika Gray, Eriyani Evans, Sierra Gatto, Mackenzie McNeil, Ariyonna Mitchell, Sara Green.

*White* Sara Green.

**Crochet**  
*Best of Show* Beverly Wilbourn.

*Blue* Peggy Bolduc, Linda Green, Linda Green, Linda Green, Mary Finley, Michele Harper, Christine Keefer, Judith Oliveras, Letricia Brown, Rande Carter.

**Embroidery**  
*Blue* Sandra Taylor and Valerie Swartz.

*Red* Isabelle Swartz

**Plastic Canvas**  
*Blue* Sandra Taylor and Linda Green.

**Arrangements**  
*Blue* Jaylyn Clemons, Sabrina Bingham, Mackenzie Bennett, Kaitlynn Davis, Alexis Fennell, Ashley Wyland, Kaylea McNeil, Megan Harrell, Sierra McGee, Breanna Cranford, Marissa Brown, Shandria Jones.

*Red* Krsten McBatty. *White* Courtney Johnson, Miesha Givens, Taylor Griffis, Alexis Bones.

**Gift baskets**  
*Best in show* Andrea Pelfrey.

*Blue* Katynn Hunt, Mikayla Faulk, Sierra Joyner, Emmalee Berry, Ariyonna Mitchell, Hannah Thick.

*White* Courtney Johnson.

**Home furnishing**  
*White* Deslineigh Norman. *Red* Emily Griffis.

**Woodworking**  
*Best of Show* William Barg. *Blue* Patricia Strohnetz, Charles Spitzer, George Barg, William Barg, Larry Combs, Krsten McBatty and Shaelyn Stallings.

**Holiday decorations**  
*Best of Show* Joy Ruhe.

*Blue* Seth Clarkson, Cherry Hammon, Shayla Brazeale, Courtney Johnson.

*Red* Krsten McBatty. *White* Johnana Surrency, Miesha Givens.

**Scrap booking**  
*Blue* Shirley Padgett.

**Duct tape creation**  
*Blue* Katie Small, McKensie Williams.

**Miscellaneous**  
*Blue* Darlene Rockefeller, Mackenzie Hires, Lyna Shumate, Myrissa Holiday, Audrie Harris.

*Red* Eriyani Evans.

**Canning**

*Best of Show* Agnes Kline. *Blue* Donna Yarbrough, Marsha Bennett, Shirley Padgett, Agnes Kline, Ralph Kline.

*Red* Mary Finley, Ralph Kline.

*White* Julie McCall, Ralph Kline.

**Honey & syrup**  
*Blue* Donna Yarbrough.

**Baking**  
*Best of Show* Colbie Willis. *Blue* Raelyn Frailey, Marsha Bennett, Dallas Norman, Maddie Bedell, Richard Stafford, Katie Small.

*Red* Raelyn Frailey, Ashley Willis, Letricia Brown, Richard Stafford.

**Horticulture**  
Tony Esterling \$2, Debbie Clark \$27, Kyle Brown \$86, Larry Preglar \$3, Tom McCall \$3, Sharon Boyett \$34, Donald Boyett \$47, Seth Clarkson \$2, Mary Ann Ray \$9, Pat Collier \$18, Carol Anderson \$5, Peg Arend \$5, Macey Jenkins \$3, Cindy Jenkins \$12, Jeanette Brown \$49, Carol Breeze \$8, Denise Melton \$75, Frank Ingram \$12 and Rose Mary Clark \$22.

# 4 shows remain

There are only four more opportunities to see the BCHS Drama production *Fairytales and Princesses*, a fun and entertaining review of songs and scenes from many of your favorite "princess" movies.

The show runs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

With great songs like *I'm Wishing*, *Belle*, *Friend Like Me*, *Reflection*, *Shiny*, *Heigh Ho*, *Bare Necessities*, *Under the Sea* and *A Whole New World*, *Fairytales and Princesses* is a fun for the whole family.

Little kids have particularly enjoyed the first week's run. Many have come in costume and had their pictures made with the princesses and heroes. They've sung and danced along and had a great time.

Reserved tickets in the first four rows are available by calling 259-6286. Reserves are \$10 and general admission \$5 at the door.



Dawson Ferguson

## Completes basic

Dawson Chase Ferguson completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas on September 21.

Airman Ferguson is the son of Stephen and Kristy Lynn Ferguson and Justin and Stephanie Johns.

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# General Election



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# 'Highwaymen' inspired work wins top fair ribbon

## Painter taught by famed FL artist

**JOEL ADDINGTON**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Cathy Mendolera recently learned one important secret to good painting.

"It's all about the colors," she said, referencing the bright orange, yellow and purple she used to paint a sunset in her best-in-show entry in the 2018 county fair painting contest.

She's entered works in the fair competition for several years now, but this year was her first entry inspired by working with one of the famed Florida Highwaymen artists, Curtis Arnett.

Mrs. Mendolera has been taking classes from the artist in Crystal River, FL at the Paint the Town Citrus gallery. Mr. Arnett was one of the original 26 Florida Highwaymen artists inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2004.

The Highwaymen are famous for being self-taught

black artists who because of discrimination couldn't sell their paintings of undeveloped Florida landscapes in galleries during the 1950s and 1960s.

Instead they painted Florida landscapes at home and traveled up and down the east coast of Florida selling their paintings to shops, banks, restaurants and hotels for \$25 each. Their works grew in popularity in the 1980s and 1990s and now sell for hundreds of dollars apiece.

"After learning [Mr. Arnett's] techniques I've gone on and done several others," said Mrs. Mendolera.

Her winning entry at the fair was a painting she says wasn't fully complete. But with the fair entry deadline upon her, she signed the work and delivered it to the exhibition hall for judging.

"Really I was expecting another one to do better. But it's all good," she said.

She says she spends sev-

eral hours on each painting, though not all at once.

"You do your work and then you walk away for a while because you're frustrated," recalled Mrs. Mendolera. "Then you forgive it when you come back. You look at it from across the room and say, 'It's not so bad from a distance.'"

The inspiration for her winning painting — a swamp scene with several egrets at sunset — came from working with Mr. Arnett but also being around several highwaymen paintings on display at the gallery.

"There was no photograph involved. It wasn't a copy painting. It was just kind of bits and pieces from Florida scenes," she said, adding that she often paints landscapes at Ocean Pond as well, which helped her replicate swampy foliage in her best-in-show work.

### Youths win best-in-show in baking, photography

Ashley Willis of Macclenny and her four children teamed up to make baking entries for each child in the fair competition.

Each child picked something to make and Mrs. Willis found recipes to match on Pinterest. After a trip to the store to gather ingredients, they spent an evening baking each entry.

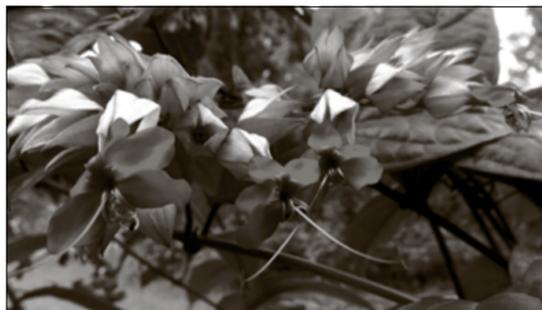
Her step-daughter Colbie Willis, 8, took the best-in-show prize for a banana walnut bread (see recipe). Her siblings Maddie Bedell, 11, Tanner Willis, 7, and Warryn Willis, 6, entered a pumpkin spice cake, peach cobbler and truffles, respectively.

Baking for the fair is a tradition for the Willis family.

"We were so surprised to have all placed first or second and earned best-in-show for the second year in a row for one of our entries," said Mrs. Willis. "We love the ribbons and titles but enjoy the time spent as a family



Purchase this photo at [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com) Photo by Joel Addington  
Cathy Mendolera and her landscape painting inspired by the Florida Highwaymen.



Nora Hammonds' first place bleeding heart vine photo.



Vera Hammonds' first place coral vine photo.



Larry Pregler's photography entry depicting a wooden bridge on Turner Cemetery Road.

best of all."

Jamie Hammonds' daughters Nora Hammonds, 10, and Vera Hammonds, 7, both won best-in-show honors for photography.

Their winning submissions were images of vines from a neighbor's property in Glen St. Mary.

Vera's entry was a photograph of a coral vine while Nora's was of a bleeding heart vine, though she received second place for a photo of her sister's hands holding grapes as well.

"I would've thought first," said the mother, "cause I love those little chubby fingers."

Whenever the girls get a hold of her smart phone they enjoy taking pictures, but Ms. Hammonds said she also encourages them to take photos outdoors to keep them active.

She said the photography exhibit encouraged her daughters, who are homeschooled, to explore their neighbor's beautiful gardens and add photography to their curriculum.

Glen St. Mary resident Larry Pregler's photograph of an old wooden bridge on Turner Cemetery Road impressed the judges as well.

He said he got a best-in-

### BANANA WALNUT BREAD

Ingredients:

- 2 to 3 **very ripe** bananas, peeled
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 3/4 cup sugar (1/2 cup if you would like it less sweet, 1 cup if more sweet)
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup walnuts

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C), and butter a 4x8-inch loaf pan.
2. In a mixing bowl, mash the ripe bananas with a fork until completely smooth. Stir the melted butter into the mashed bananas.
3. Mix in the baking soda and salt. Stir in the sugar, beaten egg, and vanilla extract. Mix in the flour.
4. Pour the batter into your prepared loaf pan and add walnuts on top. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour at 350°F (175°C), or until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.
5. Remove from oven and let cool in the pan for a few minutes. Then remove the banana bread from the pan and let cool completely before serving. Slice and serve. (A bread knife helps to make slices that aren't crumbly.)

show nod after shooting the bridge near his home several times at different times in the day to capture various lighting conditions.

He said his shots tended to be blown out by the clay soil in the area but some post editing was able to fix that problem and enhance

the image in other ways.

He captured the image with a Canon 80D digital camera.

Mr. Pregler, 79, describes himself as an amateur photographer for the last 30 years. This year was his second year entering the fair photography contest.

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# OPINION

## A possible reason for popularity of 'progressives'

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other peoples' money."

—Margaret Thatcher

"Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it."

—Thomas Sowell

Those two memorable quotes — one from the late Prime Minister Thatcher of England and the other from the esteemed commentator and economist Thomas Sowell — stick out in my mind when I try to summarize mentally why socialist systems eventually quash what is best about the human spirit — competitiveness and properly focused self-interest.

The former lumps economic activity under a stifling central governmental umbrella; the later encourages self-fulfillment and ultimately a better outcome for all. You can find much more astute summations than that, but there's no better barometer of its accuracy than performance. Generally speaking, societies that favor individualism in matters economic and social have overall better outcomes.

Their citizens are more fulfilled versus those in which governments want to control outcomes and do away with "inequality." The fallacy there is conditions are never truly "equal" and no system of government can make them so. Vene-

zuela is modern day's shining example: short years ago it was the wealthiest of nations in South America, oil-rich and thriving.

Today after a decade-plus of socialism, you can't buy toilet paper there and people who can are fleeing into neighboring countries.

What does this have to do with Baker County?

Nothing, really, but it points to a disturbing trend showing up in 2018 pre-election polling and widespread support in 2016 among younger U.S. voters for maverick Bernie Sanders in the 2016 presidential sweepstakes.

It doesn't appear that Sanders' support among Millennials was rooted in negatives for Mrs. Clinton

(though I can't imagine why not). Rather, they were attracted to his socialist view of the world. And as we approach election day next month, there's evidence in many states (Florida included) and so-called progressive candidates continue to hold the interest of younger voters.

One such candidate is the Democrat nominee for Florida governor, Andrew Gillum. Popular enough to be

elected Tallahassee's mayor (granted, Leon County with a concentration of government workers including the university is a liberal island in north Florida), Mr. Gillum is charismatic and black, two qualities that catapulted another major figure into high office this century.

He's also a progressive, leaning strongly toward liberal social programs and more government control

over institutions, and similar to Mr. Sanders in 2016, that plays well with several significantly large subsets of voters.

Will he beat Ron DeSantis, a conservative north Florida Republican with the endorsement of President Trump? He might, if one puts stock in some recent polls, among them an NBC/Marist reading two weeks ago. It shows Mr. Gillum slightly ahead and Senator Bill Nelson ahead of our present governor Rick Scott.

Should they win, everyone on the Republican side will be looking for answers. One I would suggest is that younger voters, who granted haven't gravitated more to the right based on life experiences, have very little background in the long-term ills of socialism. It's not that they're dumb (quite the contrary). It could be more that they haven't been exposed in high school and college classrooms or in their homes to the inherent stark differences between socialism worshipping the state and capitalism favoring the individual.

Here's a question parents right here in Baker County can ask their high school and college age children: In any classroom forum, has a teacher ever expounded on the state of affairs in modern day Venezuela since the socialists seized power?

If the answer is no, I think were onto something.



## Hearings distasteful as McCarthy-ism

So, after listening to the news last week, I decided that I would be better off throwing away all technology and living in a hollow

tree in the middle of the woods. I don't care which side of the political spectrum you're on, but last week was bitterly depressing.

The rancor in these Judicial Committee hearings reminded me of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee in the 1950s where legislators called everybody and his brother who disagreed with Senator Joe McCarthy, an anti-Communist. Both events were dark marks on our democracy and made me want to turn off the television and find that hollow tree.

As a humor columnist there is so much I could write about these hearings that is darkly humorous, but I'm having a hard time working up the laughs. However, when you're feeling the most miserable, sometimes that's the best thing to do.

So, here is my take on what I saw during the hearing. I'll start off being serious.

I have no idea who to believe, and am sorry that both of them had to go through this. But they did, because it was important testimony for both of them. I feel bad about the collateral damage that this is doing to both their families.

I would not want to be 17 right now. It's a weird time.

Somewhere along the line, this committee of old white men decided that in order to cover their butts they needed to find a woman lawyer to question Judge Kavanaugh's accuser Christine Blasey Ford because they were worried it might look bad if they questioned a woman about sexual as-

### MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

sault. If these guys are more worried about how it looks than that they are about getting to the truth — whatever it is — then maybe they shouldn't be senators. Because how will they have the courage to stand up to the Russians or Chinese?

Christine Blasey Ford looked like she would have liked to be just about anywhere but this Senate hearing. Except maybe a party at Georgetown Prep. Now for the humorous. Or sort of humorous. Before I leave for my hollow tree.

Listening to this gut-wrenching hearing, I really just wished the Republicans and Democrats would decide this confirmation by a good, old-fashioned game of Battleship.

"B-1."  
"Oh, no. You sunk my Supreme Court Nominee."

President Trump remained remarkably presidential throughout the hearing, praising both Ford and Kavanaugh, which made me wonder if someone had stolen his phone.

Who keeps a calendar from 1982? You know when I threw out my 1982 calendar? January of 1983.

So what does that say about Judge Kavanaugh that he still has his calendars from the 1980s? Not that he's precise and well organized. No, it says he's a hoarder.

Actual testimony from the Kavanaugh hearing — "We drank beer, and you know, so — so did, I think, the vast majority of ... of people our age at the time. I liked beer. Still like beer. We drank beer, sometimes

probably had too many beers and sometimes other people had too many beers."

Correct me if I'm wrong. If we messed up his hair, put him in a dirty sweatshirt that said College, and had Judge Kavanaugh say those lines while sitting on a blown out leather couch, we'd be watching a scene from *Animal House*. Which is kind of what that elite prep school sounds like.

Speaking of Georgetown Prep — if even half of what is being said about this place is true, it is a school no parent would want their kid to go, and every teen boy would want to go.

If you watched the hearing, you know that there was a lot of crying and yelling and finger pointing. I wasn't sure if I was watching a Senate hearing or an episode of *This is Us*.

As a general rule, I like Lindsey Graham, but listening to him rant and rave I was worried that at any moment his head would spin around in a circle and he would spit pea soup like Linda Blair in *The Exorcist*.

Come to think of it, by the end of the hearing I wished that Christopher Plummer would have come in to the Senate hearing room in his priest costume and exorcised the whole place.

I think everybody probably needed a shower after that hearing.

Through the whole thing, I wondered what Sen. John McCain would have said. It made me miss him more than ever.

After watching the grueling hours of testimony, I still don't know who to believe and I doubt that even after the FBI investigates we will have any indication of who is telling the truth.

## BAKER SOCIALIZING

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS  
The Baker County Press  
Published by Joel Addington (7) · 21 hrs · 8

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- Nina Carr I feel that the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, EMT's should always have what they need (money and equipment) to keep us safe so some one better come up with the money they need.. or I will vote out any one who takes away from them...Just the way I feel  
Like · Reply · 20h
- Buddy Tawes Amen  
Like · Reply · 17h
- Write a reply...
- Kenny Miracle Absolutely.... Glad to finally see everyone Police, Fire, Ems and our elected officials working together to make Baker County the best it can be..  
Like · Reply · 20h
- Steve Harrison My god no. Our school buildings are in disrepair, while the police have a multimillion dollar facility in perfect shape with a cafeteria and gym. New cars, uniforms, laptops, weapons, canines, MWRAP vehicles, command centers, humvees, all the while we can't get funding for basic classroom repairs and supplies. It's painstakingly obvious where the priority is, not our children.  
Like · Reply · 17h
- Kendall Hurd I'd still like to see our roads in better condition.  
Like · Reply · Message · 16h
- Earice Ray Rhoden Definitely a start for Sheriff Scotty Rhoden needs all they will allow His Department to have , cause He will use it wisely  
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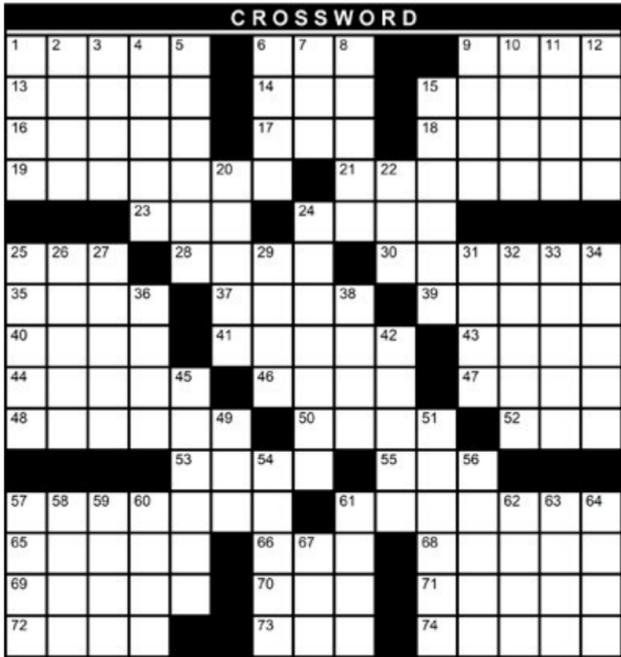
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# THEME: CIVICS LESSON



### ACROSS

1. Leprosy colony inhabitant
6. Pendulum's path
9. Vegan's protein choice
13. Friend from Mexico
14. H in HMS
15. Challenges
16. Pocket bread, pl.
17. "\_\_\_ to Joy"
18. Subside
19. \* \_\_\_ election for choosing a party representative
21. \*Alternative to electoral
23. Am is to I as \_\_\_ is to we
24. At the summit
25. \_\_\_-been
28. \*One is a quarter of a Presidential term
30. Serfs of ancient Sparta
35. Lode deposits
37. Fireplace conduit
39. Stitch again
40. It's hard to resist
41. Relating to certain Hindu philosophy

43. #33 Down, alt. sp.
44. Somer\_\_\_
46. EU money
47. "As \_\_\_ on TV"
48. Eye cover
50. What libraries do
52. Not decaf.
53. Kind of cola
55. Deborah, to friends
57. One who destroys
61. \*Group of 538 electors
65. A variety show
66. \_\_\_ Baba
68. Dog-\_\_\_ pages
69. Weather advisory, e.g.
70. Giant pot
71. "Give me your \_\_\_, your poor..."
72. Cremation pile
73. Lamb's mamma
74. Glorify

7. \*As opposed to blue
8. Moved like ivy
9. Not to be mentioned
10. \*Like the citizenship Oath of Allegiance
11. Cheese on Peloponnese
12. One on drugs
15. \_\_\_ Dan, olden-day hair pomade
20. Full of corals
22. Expression of amazement
24. Salad green
25. \*Lower chamber of Congress
26. Orderly arrangement
27. Smooth transition
29. Soothing plant gel
31. Classic game show "\_\_\_ Make a Deal"
32. Willow twig

33. Conical dwelling
34. \* \_\_\_ state
36. Unload
38. Michael Collins' country
42. Owned apartment
45. \*Party's list of candidates
49. Buck's mate
51. "Get rid of" button
54. Desire something
56. Inflammatory swelling
57. Sandwich alternative
58. Bank on
59. At any time
60. "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The \_\_\_
61. Give a traffic ticket
62. Makes mistakes
63. STEM enthusiast?
64. Whirlpool
67. \*Rule of \_\_\_

### DOWN

1. Nordic native
2. \_\_\_ of Qatar, or Prince of Qatar
3. Rigatoni relative
4. Old World lizard
5. Prayer beads
6. Call to matey

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## Dads take kids to schools

Hundreds of fathers, grandfathers, uncles and male role models walked children to class the morning of September 26 at Macclenny Elementary School (MES) as part of a national observance underscoring the importance fathers play in their children's education and development. Faculty at the school set up a coffee, water and donut station for dads at the front entrance. The fathers — many clad in their work uniforms, including reflective vests, company polos, and U.S. Army combat fatigues — accompanied students through the hallways and to their classrooms to start the day, grabbing the refreshments as they left campus. MES principal Sherry Barrett said some 300 fathers attended the event last year and she expected even more this year. Similar observances were held at other schools, too. Among those pictured from MES that morning are (top at right) Sgt. Kendrick Sampson and his daughter Kaleiah, 8, and (bottom right) Michael Stafford and his daughter Scarlett, 8, of Macclenny.



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# OBITUARIES

## 'Poopa' Hodges, 78, of Jacksonville

Charles William Hodges, 78, better known as C.W. or Poopa, died surrounded by his family on September 26, 2018 after a brief illness. He was born on March 14, 1940 to the late James D. Hodges and Grace M. Gunter. He was also preceded in death by granddaughter Ciara Kearns and his companion of 12 years, Juanita Burney. Charles owned and operated CW Wholesalers and sold ice cream for over 50 years. His customers were his passion and priority as he helped them to succeed and bring joy to communities all over Jacksonville (they were known as "the ice cream men"). His great-grandson recently said "Poopa was the greatest ice cream maker!" Charles had a huge heart and helped anyone in need no matter who they were. He was loved and remembered by many more family members and friends who also meant the world to him. He had many challenges over the years with his health and kept on going, giving his Lord the glory for all of his victories.

Mr. Hodges is survived by son Ronnie Kearns (Elaine) of Jacksonville; daughters Donna Parham (Larry) of Orange Park, Doreen Murray (Mitch) of Fernandina Beach and Debbie Rivers (David) of Glen St Mary; the mother of his children, Betty Napoli Hodges of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; a loving niece who was like a daughter, Lynn Blanco.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday October 2, 2018 at Hope Baptist Church in Jacksonville with Pastor Joel Singleton officiating. Interment was at Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery in Jacksonville. Hardage-Giddens Riverside Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Graveside service later for Jim Lough

James "Jim" Phillip Lough, 63, of Macclenny died Wednesday, September 26 2018, at his residence. He was born in Chico, California and resided in Macclenny for the past 36 years. He was an electronics technician and an accomplished musician. He had a great love of knowledge, a unique sense of humor and lived life to its fullest. Mr. Lough had an amazing intellect and was an individualist. He was a follower of Shepard's Chapel and Pastor Arnold Murray.



James Lough

Mr. Lough was preceded in death by his parents Gerald William and Sybil Louise Smith Lough. He is survived by the mother of his son, Yvette Lough of Macclenny; his son Sam Lough of Macclenny; sister Laura Lough; brothers Lance Lough and Jack Lough.

A graveside service will be held at a later date in Dalton, Georgia. Donations may be made to the Baker County Animal Shelter. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

## Pat Palandrani, well-known barber

Pasquale (Pat) Palandrani, 87, of Macclenny, died Tuesday, October 2, 2018. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware and moved to Jacksonville in 1961, where he met his future wife, Lena. Pat was a well-known barber in Jacksonville and built many relationships over the years. Recently, Pat resided at River Garden in Jacksonville. He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Lena Ann Palandrani; sister Mary Spector and his grandson Mathew Roberts.



Pasquale Palandrani

Family members include his daughters Florence (Jack) Palandrani Donker, Jean (Larry) Palandrani Roberts, and Carol (Timothy) Donker Meloy; grandchildren Gregory (Erin), Bryce and Jackie Donker, Adam Roberts and Stephanie Meloy.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, October 4 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Macclenny. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

## Brenda Thrift, 78, of St. George

Brenda Kay Thrift, 78, of St. George, Georgia died Thursday, September 27, 2018, at her home following an extended illness. Mrs. Thrift was born in Mendenhall, Mississippi and moved to Glen St. Mary in 1956 and then to St. George, Georgia in 1960. She and her husband Felton owned and operated Thrift Ace Hardware in Macclenny for almost 40 years until their retirement. She was a Baptist and enjoyed trips to Mississippi and Hilton Head, S.C., and enjoyed fellowship with her group of high school friends. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Ola Doris Caldwell Adcock.



Brenda Thrift

Other than her husband of 58 years, Mrs. Thrift is survived by daughters Tina (Mike) Bradley of St. George and Tami Brown of Jacksonville; brothers Lloyd (Lois) Adcock of Macclenny and Kenneth (Faye) Adcock of Atlanta; granddaughter Kathryn (Nick) Rosamonda; two great-grandchildren; mother-in-law Irene Thrift Parrish and brother-in-law Dr. Frederick (Barb) Thrift.

A memorial service to honor the life of Mrs. Thrift was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 29, at the First Assembly of God Church in Macclenny with Pastor Joshua Potts officiating. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

## Johnnie Raulerson, known for produce

Johnnie Jackson Raulerson, 91, of Macclenny died Friday, September 28, 2018 at the Acosta-Rua Center for Caring in Jacksonville following a short illness. Mr. Raulerson was born in Morniac, Georgia and resided in Macclenny the past 80 years. He was a farmer and made prize-winning produce including potatoes, sugar cane, flowers and other forms of vegetables. He attended the New River N.C. Methodist Church in Raiford. He was preceded in death by his parents Jack Jay and Mitie Raulerson; daughter Arvie Elaine Tyson; siblings Leona P. Nipper, Alice Parker, Roxie Nipper, Joyce Stewart, Jewel Douberly, Lester Raulerson and Tommy Raulerson; and granddaughter Beth Lee Anne Mathis.



Johnnie Raulerson

Mr. Raulerson is survived by his wife of 70 years, Gracie Lee Mikell Raulerson of Macclenny; daughter Catherine Marie "Frosty" Mathis of Lake Butler; sister Betty Jean Boyd of Macclenny; grandchildren Bobby Giles, Amy LeNez Tyson Randall and Ashley Marie Tyron Davis; four great-grandchildren.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Raulerson was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 1, in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with Revs. Tommy Richardson and Neil Griffin officiating. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Macclenny.

**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!'

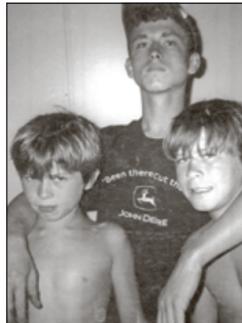
**New Hope Church, Inc.**  
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Fairgrounds Rd.  
Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all  
Sunday  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Services 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Associate Pastor: Shane Conner

*Isaiah 41:10*  
  
*We care about your family*  
James M. Curry, Licensed Funeral Director  
Shannon M. Curry, Licensed Funeral Director  
Allen A. Crews, Funeral Associate  
Jack A. Blackburn, L.F.D.  
When your family experiences a time of need, let our family provide quality service at an affordable price.  
**BLACKBURN CURRY FUNERAL & CREMATION**  
380 N. Lowder Street | Macclenny  
259-2806  
www.blackburncurryfh.com

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

**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

**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



In loving memory of **Kyle E. Newmans**  
12/5/89-10/5/08

*It's been ten years since that day, and we all miss you just as much today as we did the day God called you home. You are so loved and missed. A day doesn't go by you're not thought about either with a smile on our faces or a tear in our eyes.*

WE LOVE YOU, KYLE, LOVE, MOM, KEN, KOREY, BAYBAY, JESI, NANA, PAPA, DAD

In loving memory of **J.D. Yarbrough**  
10/3/1933-5/14/2018  
**Jay Yarbrough**  
10/8/1964-5/23/92  
**Cyndle Cherie Ireland**  
3/18/89-10/5/10

*I am with you still. I give you this one thought to keep. I am with you still, do not weep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. Do not think of me as gone. I am with you still, in each new dawn.*

ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS, J.D., JAY AND CYNDLE FAMILIES

## Conference in Sanderson

The 20th annual Celebrating Women conference will be held at the Johnson Chapel Church of God by Faith in Sanderson on October 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, October 14 with worship services at 11 am. and 5 p.m.

The church is located on Faith Loop north of Sanderson.

## Mannings will gather

The Manning family reunion will be held starting at 12:30 p.m. on October 14 at Macclenny Park (the Duck Pond). Bring a covered dish.

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

**Want to know if your taxes may be going up?**  
That's what we are here for. It's our job.  
**THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS.**

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Temple**  
INDEPENDENT PENTECOSTAL CHURCH  
*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  
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

**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

**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

FORMER CATS

# Paige makes history in Georgia State's win

**JON SHUMAKE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Many former BCHS Wildcat football stars had memorable outings over the weekend, including one who set a program record in just his fifth collegiate game.

All games were played September 29 unless otherwise noted.

• Freshman running back Seth Paige had a record-setting day as his Georgia State Panthers blew out the UL-Monroe Warhawks 46-14 in their Sun Belt opener.

Paige rushed for a game-high 145 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries, including an 82-yard scoring burst in the second quarter that was the longest touchdown run in Georgia State history. He also had a 15-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

The Panthers (2-3, 1-0) visit the Troy Trojans (4-1, 2-0) on October 4 in a Sun Belt East Division game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on ESPN.

• Senior defensive lineman CeCe Jefferson had four total tackles and a pass defense, helping a dominant Florida Gators defense lead the program 13-6 over host Mississippi State. The victory moved Florida (4-1, 2-1) to No. 22 in the AP Top 25.

The Gators host the No. 5 LSU Tigers (5-0, 2-0) on October 6. The SEC game will air nationally on CBS at 3:30 p.m.

• Senior linebacker Blayne

Merchant had six total tackles and a tackle for loss, and his Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers rolled 30-7 at Maine Maritime in a New England Women and Men's Athletic Conference contest.

WPI (3-2, 1-1) hosts Catholic (0-5, 0-2) on October 6 at noon.

• Redshirt sophomore Mondrell Jefferson's Valdosta State Blazers remained undefeated with a 63-42 shootout win at Mississippi College in Gulf South Conference action. Jefferson, a defensive back, had three total tackles, and the Blazers (5-0, 3-0) improved to No. 10 in the AFCA Division II Coaches Poll.

Valdosta State is scheduled to host the Delta State Statesmen (0-5, 0-2) on October 6.

• Sophomore defensive back Rod Haygood had three total tackles on September 27 as his Presbyterian Blue Hose shut out visiting Lindsey Wilson 10-0.

The Blue Hose (2-1) open Big South conference play on October 6 at the Kennesaw State Owls (4-1). The game will air on ESPN3 at 2 p.m.

• Sophomore defensive end Quan Griffin's Georgia Southern Eagles scored the go-ahead touchdown with 19 seconds remaining, lifting them to a 28-21 home win over the Arkansas State Red Wolves to open Sun Belt play.

Georgia Southern (3-1, 1-0) is set to host the South Alabama Jaguars (1-4, 1-1) in a Sun Belt game on October 6. The game is scheduled to air on ESPN3 at 3:30 p.m.

• Freshman defensive back Jamon Jones' Webber International Warriors lost for the first time in a close 20-17 outcome to the visiting Southeastern Fire in Mid-South Conference competition. Jones had two total tackles as the Warriors fell to 4-1 overall

and 0-1 in the conference.

Webber International has a week off before visiting the Keiser Seahawks on October 13 in conference play.

• The Edward Waters Tiggers' two-game winning streak was snapped with a 27-23 loss at Keiser to open Mid-South Conference play. Freshman defensive lineman Brian West recorded three total tackles and a half-tackle for loss. Fellow freshman defensive lineman Tay Reed had two tackles.

The Tigers (2-3, 0-1) visit the Warner Royals (0-4) on October 6 in a conference game.

• Rookie running back Mike Boone had one reception on September 27 as his Minnesota Vikings lost in a 38-31 road shootout to the Los Angeles Rams.

The Vikings (1-2-1) will try to end a three-game winless streak on October 7 when they visit the Philadelphia Eagles (2-2) in a rematch of last season's NFC Championship Game. FOX will carry the game at 4:25 p.m.

• Freshman offensive lineman Cooper Hodges' Appalachian State Mountaineers rolled 52-7 over the visiting South Alabama Jaguars in their Sun Belt opener. Since their Week 1 loss to Penn State, the Mountaineers (3-1, 1-0) have outscored their opponents by a combined 169-23.

Appalachian State is set to visit Arkansas State (3-2, 0-1) on October 9. The Sun Belt contest is scheduled to air on ESPN2 at 8 p.m.

• Linebacker Bear Woods injury-riddled season continued as he missed his Toronto Argonauts' 38-16 road loss to the Calgary Stampeders on September 28. Head coach Marc Trestman said the 31-year-old linebacker is

"week to week," according to a report by the *Toronto Sun's* Frank Zicarelli on September 25.

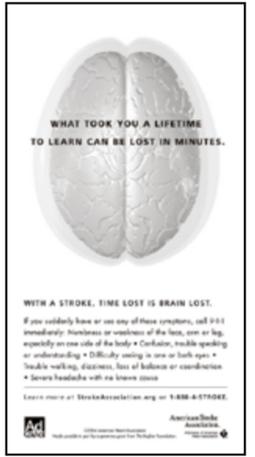
The Argos (3-10) visit the BC Lions (6-7) on October 6 at 7 p.m.

• Freshman running back Josh Haygood's Malone Pioneers lost 45-35 at home to Hillsdale in Great Midwest Athletic Conference competition. The Pioneers (1-3, 1-2)

visit the Tiffin Dragons (5-0, 2-0) in conference play.

• Sophomore offensive lineman Travion Clayton's Southern Miss Golden Eagles lost 24-13 on the road to the No. 10 Auburn Tigers.

Southern Miss (2-2, 1-0) has a bye week before returning to Conference USA play at North Texas on October 13.



## LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO: 02-2018-CP-0062**

IN RE: The Estate of CHARLIE LEE HODGES, deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of CHARLIE LEE HODGES, deceased, File Number 02-2018-CP-0062, 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 unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is September 27, 2018.

Personal Representative: Jessica L. Hodges

Attorney for Personal Representative: Frank E. Maloney, Jr., P.A. 445 East Macclenny Avenue Macclenny, FL 32063 (904) 259-3155 Florida Bar No.: 142990 9/27-10/4c

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-DR-326**

Jose Pedro Hernandez Rios, Petitioner, and Kimberly Ann Hernandez Rios, Respondent,

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY**

TO: Kimberly Ann Hernandez Rios LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 5863 Southern States Road, Macclenny, FL 32063

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jose Pedro Hernandez Rios whose address is 5863 Southern States Road, Macclenny, FL 32063 on or before October 25, 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: September 21, 2018.

Clerk of the Court By: Melissa Haines Deputy Clerk

9/27-10/18p

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Baker County, Florida, will conduct a Public Hearing for proposed Resolution 2018-50 to be heard Tuesday, October 16, 2018 commencing at 6:00pm, at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL. A copy of the proposed Resolution may be inspected by any member of the public at the County Administration Office, Macclenny, Florida. On the date mentioned all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to this proposed Ordinance.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 50**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN EXCHANGE OF REAL PROPERTY BETWEEN BAKER COUNTY AND R.H. DAVIS OIL COMPANY PURSUANT TO SECTION 125.37, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

10/4-10/11c

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

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction on October 19, 2018 at 10:00 am at A, R&R, Inc. 11837 N SR 121, Macclenny, FL 32063:

**1999 Saturn SC1 VIN# 1G8ZJ8276XZ100987 10/4c**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING: PROJECT NAME: Baker County Roads - Hurricane Irma Damage Repairs BID 2018-17**

**Bids must be received by:** November 6, 2018 no later than 3:30 p.m. Late bids will not be considered.

**Deadline for questions:** October 31, 2018 no later than 4:00 p.m.

**Public bid opening:** November 6, 2018 BAKER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG 55 NORTH THIRD STREET MACCLENNEY, FL 32063

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

**Bid Documents available to download at:** Tarbox Consulting and Design, Inc. www.tarboxinc.com/xxxx/

**Engineer contact for questions:** Troy Tarbox troy@tarboxinc.com (904) 399-1785

**Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference:** No pre-bid conference will be conducted.

**Project Description:** County Road 23A includes construction of permanent repairs to an existing guardrail system and to the construction of concrete filled fabric embankment armor. Southern States Nursery Road includes asphalt pavement overlay of 300 linear feet of existing paved roadway and replacement traffic striping.

**Project Location:** County Road 23A and Southern States Nursery Road

**BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS KENNIE DOWNING, COUNTY MANAGER 10/4-10/18c**

**PUBLIC NOTICE Invitation for Bids Bid # 18-02**

**New River Regional Landfill Asbestos Containing Material Excavation and Relocation**

The New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) is extending an Invitation For Bids for the excavation and relocation of asbestos containing material (ACM) at the New River Regional Landfill (NRRL). The successful Bidder will be responsible for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation, services, and incidentals required to relocate approximately 3,000 cubic yards of ACM from the NRRL Class III Landfill to the adjacent Class I Landfill. The material is located within an approximate 1-acre area through specific types of deposited ACM are unknown; the material may be friable. The work includes excavating, loading, transporting, unloading, and covering with 1 foot of soil the ACM from the Class III Landfill to the Class I Landfill. All work shall be completed in accordance with the specifications, drawings, and contract requirements included as part of the contract documents. The Contractor shall be a Florida-Licensed Asbestos Contractor.

NRRL is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Raiford, Florida, on the east side of State Road 121 in Union County. Bid packages are available for pickup at the NRSWA Administrative Office, 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, Florida, 32083. Bid packages can also be requested to be received electronically by emailing a request to NRSWA at lgreene@nrswa.org. All bids must be submitted on the Bid Form provided. Completed bids are to be mailed to NRSWA, PO Box 647, Raiford, Florida, 32083 or delivered to the NRSWA Administrative Office at 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, Florida, 32083. After the bid opening, the bids will be examined for completeness and preserved in the custody of the NRSWA Executive Director. NRSWA Purchasing Policy will be ensued. All bids received after the specified time and date will not be considered. Contact the NRSWA office at 386-431-1000 for questions concerning the bid package. The DEADLINE for submittal is Thursday, October 25, 2018, 3:00 pm (local time).

10/4-10/11c

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Get it delivered to your mailbox or subscribe online- Call today for info 259-2400  
**THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 18000019CAMXAX**

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC. Plaintiff(s), vs.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JAMES E. DAVIS, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF KEVIN RYDER, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; AS POSSIBLE HEIR; KENNETH DAVIS; LORI DAVIS; SHYLO DAVIS; LINDA JEAN FORD; GLEN FOREST LLC; THE UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION N/A/K/ LESLIE CREW(S); Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JAMES E. DAVIS, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN PREVIOUS ADDRESS: 11389 Cowpen Rd, Sanderson, FL 32087

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF KEVIN RYDER, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; AS POSSIBLE HEIR- PREVIOUS ADDRESSES: 8654 New Kings Rd, Lot 65, Jacksonville, FL 32219 11389 Cowpen Rd, Sanderson, FL 32087

TO: LORI DAVIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 11389 Cowpen Rd, Sanderson, FL 32087 PREVIOUS ADDRESSES: 10809 Mud Lake Road, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 3642 Green Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205 576 Ivy St, Lot 6, Macclenny, FL 32063

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a civil action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida, to foreclose certain real property described as follows:

**PARCEL 51 A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN SECTION 29 AND 30, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:**

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29, AND RUN S 88° 10' 17" W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 30, A DISTANCE OF 21.43 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF AN 80 FOOT COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD (KNOWN LOCALLY AS COWPEN ROAD); THENCE RUN N 01°45' 17" W, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 366.92 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING N 01°45' 17" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 374.46 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING N 01° 45' 17" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 345.50 FEET THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING N 01°45' 17" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 238.89 FEET; THENCE RUN N 13° 35' 16" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 109.82 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING N 13° 35' 16" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 181.47 FEET; THENCE RUN N 05° 11' 42" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 155.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING N 05° 11' 42" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 175.04 FEET; THENCE RUN N 04° 47' 06" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 147.37 FEET; THENCE RUN N 89° 34' 33" E, A DISTANCE OF 1356.96 FEET; THENCE RUN S 01° 39' 17" W, A DISTANCE OF 321.40 FEET; THENCE RUN S 89° 34' 33" W, A DISTANCE OF 1344.12 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SUBJECT TO A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER, ACROSS AND ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF; ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF AN 80 FOOT COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD (KNOWN LOCALLY AS COWPEN ROAD) TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MOBILE HOME(S) AS FOLLOWS: 2006 CLAYTON WITH SERIAL NUMBER(S): WHC0157926AA AND WHC0157926AB.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 11389 COWPEN ROAD, SANDERSON, FL 32087

You are required to file a written response with the Court and serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Padgett Law Group, whose address is 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312, at least thirty (30) days from the date of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of 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.

DATED this the 27th day of September, 2018.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court

By: Tina Carrington Deputy Clerk

Padgett Law Group 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203 Tallahassee, FL 32312 attorney@padgettlaw.net

10/4-10/11c

# Two tree farmers honored

**ALICIA LAMBORN**  
EXTENSION OFFICE

Congratulations to Doug and Teresa Moore for their outstanding forest stewardship and being selected as Florida's Outstanding Tree Farmers of 2018!

Located at the headwaters of the St. Mary's River in Baker County, South Prong Plantation encompasses over 2400 acres of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, and hydric hammock that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. While the primary objective on the property is high-quality wildlife habitat, the plantation also produces timber and is a great example of integrating these objectives.

Prescribed fire is an important tool here and Doug has been involved in organizing the North Central Florida Prescribed Burn Association. The family provides educational outreach programs at the property to fellow landowners and conservation groups, in partnership with the University of Florida / IFAS Extension service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Forest Service and others.

Doug is a FWC certified Youth Hunt Master and leads youth hunts on the property. He also leads camping and merit badge programs with the Boy Scouts.

Join us at the property for a tour and awards ceremony on Friday, October 19. This event is free but pre-registration is required. Reserve a space for the morning or afternoon tour by calling Whitney at the Florida Forestry Association, (850) 222-5646. Space will be limited to 20 people per tour. The deadline to register is October 9.

www.bakercountypress.com

Pastors Appreciation **REVIVAL**

**Road To Calvary Church**

**OCTOBER 15-21**

Monday - Friday 7pm ■ Sunday 11am

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Good annointed preaching!</b>            | <b>Monday:</b> Bro. Justin Griffis    |
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**Friday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm & Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon**, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Macclenny. Clothes, toys, household items, lots of everything.

**Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**, 13493 East Tall Pine Road, Macclenny. Huge sale.

**Friday & Saturday, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm**, 139 West Stansell Avenue, Macclenny. Huge sale, everything must go.

**Saturday, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm**, East & West Smooth Bore Avenue, Glen St. Mary. Community yard sale.

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**Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**, 6068 Larimer Road, Macclenny. Multi-family sale, too many things to list.

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**Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**, 8394 Claude Harvey Road, Glen St. Mary. Boys clothes, womens clothes, household items.

**Saturday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm**, 7629 Plantation Road, Macclenny. Three family sale.

**Saturday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**, 980 Red Fox Way, Macclenny (Fox Ridge). Lots of household items, clothes, jewelry, dvds, fall and Christmas decorations, etc.

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# Ladies lose first district match

**JON SHUMAKE**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

sports@bakercountypress.com

The BCHS Lady Wildcat volleyball team had a chance to make a statement against three-time defending district champion Ridgeview and claim the No. 1 seed in the District 4-6A tournament.

The Lady Cats definitely gained Ridgeview's attention, but they weren't able to overcome the mainstays atop the district.

Baker County's push to force a decisive fifth fell just short on September 27, and visiting Ridgeview held on 3-1 (20-25, 25-14, 25-15, 25-23) to hand the Lady Cats their first District 4-6A loss of the season.

The Lady Cats (14-4, 3-1) appeared to break a 22-all fourth-set tie as the ball seemed to land on the right line of Ridgeview's side of the court. The point was overruled by the referee, however, who called the ball out and awarded the go-ahead point to the Lady Panthers.

The final of Madison Barton's team-high 12 kills eventually cut the gap to 24-22, but Ridgeview's Kaeley Keller ended the match with a kill of her own.

Ridgeview's go-ahead point was the last of eight lead changes in the back-and-forth set. Allyson Crossland led the team with five blocks and added nine kills, and she twice tied the score in the fourth game and



Purchase this photo at [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com) Photo by Jud Johnson  
Madison Barton attempts to tip the ball over the net.

helped Baker County side out.

The Lady Panthers gradually pulled away in the middle two sets after Baker County kept it close early. Ridgeview twice opened 11-point advantages in the second set, and a 10-4 third-set run helped it break away from the 10-all tie to take control of the game.

The ladies ended the first set on a five-point run to gain the early edge. Rachel Mechum, Barton and Blakely Mallory all had kills during the set-ending run, but it was Mechum's service run earlier in the game that put the team ahead.

After KiKi Carter's diving

dig landed on Ridgeview's side of the court for Baker County to side out, Mechum served six straight points to give the Lady Cats a 17-14 lead. Ridgeview battled back to tie the score at 20-all, but a net foul sparked Baker County's run.

Carter led the team with 23 digs. Mechum had a team-high 27 assists.

In the JV match, Ridgeview broke a 3-all second-set tie by outscoring the JV Lady Cats 22-7 in the remainder of the game to complete the 25-23, 25-10 sweep.

Shelby Grimes led Baker County with six kills, one of which equalized the score at

22-all in the first set. Baker County briefly took a lead on a net foul, but the JV Lady Panthers took advantage of three errors — an out-of-bounds volley, a volley into the net and a double hit — to escape with the set.

Kennedy Godwin and Taylor Crews tied for the team lead with 14 digs. Godwin and Mariah Green both had a team-high three kills, and Courtney Barnard led the ladies with 13 assists.

Baker County was scheduled to honor its six seniors — Barton, Mechum, Carter, Dixie Raulerson, Makayla Clevenger and Cassidi Beaver — prior to its match on October 2 against West Nassau. The ladies are set to visit Bishop Snyder on October 8 and Yulee the following night.

The JV Lady Cats are also scheduled to play in the JJVA Fall Festival JV Tournament on October 6.

## Lady Cats top Trinity, Suwannee

The Lady Cats rebounded from their district loss to Ridgeview on October 1 with a road win at Trinity.

Baker County also swept host Suwannee 25-7, 27-25, 25-19 on September 25. Barton led the ladies with 12 kills and seven aces. Skye Miller and Mallory both added seven kills and Raulerson had four aces.

Mechum recorded 21 assists and Carter had 19 digs.



Photo by Debbie Pelham  
Krista Crews reaches for the volley in front of Emma Richardson.

# Both No. 2 seed

**JON SHUMAKE**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

sports@bakercountypress.com

Both BCMS Lady Bobcat volleyball teams secured the No. 2 seed in their respective Northeast Florida Athletic Conference tournaments, which were scheduled to begin this week.

The B-Team hosted Wilkinson on October 2 to begin the tournament. The

A-Team is scheduled to host the same team on October 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the middle school's gym. See next week's newspaper for results.

Both teams entered the tournament with positive momentum after winning at Bradford on October 1.

Baker County's A-Team improved its record to an even 6-6 with a 25-18, 25-15 sweep over the Lady Hurricanes. Krista Crews led the Lady B-Cats in serving.

Hailey Marker started the B-Team's match with eight straight service points, setting the tone for its 25-20, 25-17 sweep. The B-Team ended the regular season by winning four of its final five games to improve to 7-5 overall.

The pair of sweeps came after the Lady B-Cats split their home matches on September 27 against Orange Park.

Marker and Riley Walker led the B-Team in serving during its 25-5, 25-16 sweep.

The A-Team won the opening set, but couldn't hang on in the tight 25-20, 23-25, 16-18 loss.

"Girls played a tough match but wasn't able to pull out the win," head coach Angela Lauramore said in a message on September 28.

# Two shutouts, blowout by AYF youth Wildcats

**JON SHUMAKE**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

sports@bakercountypress.com

Three of the four Baker County AYF Youth Wildcat teams won on September 29, including two by shutout, as the program hosted the Duval Tigers at Sanderson's Cat Den.

Both the 8-and-under and 10U Youth Cats held the Tigers scoreless as they won by a combined score of 32-0.

The 8U team's newly implemented 4-4 defense dominated, limiting the Tigers to only three first downs, as Baker County rolled 18-0. The defense was led by Kelden Deupree, Nick Dekle, Peyton Jones, Max Rhoden, Romello Thompson, Ian Reneau and Marlin Givens, league founder Mark Broughton wrote in an email on October 1.

Reneau also led a revamped offense, which found success in the I-wing scheme. Gary Mosley high-

lighted the game with a counter running play that went for 40 yards, Broughton wrote.

Baker County's 10U team has now outscored its opponents by a combined 212-25 in six games after blanking the Tigers 14-0.

Fullback Reggie Keith scored both touchdowns for the offense, which was led by Trenton Newmans at quarterback. Defensively, the entire unit stepped up, Broughton explained, including Tifton Davis, Anthony Washington, James Prescott, Kaden Wight and Brycen Tubberville, who spelled Chase Phillips at safety.

The most lopsided win of the day came from the 12U squad, which blew out the Tigers 44-12 with the help of four turnovers and numerous sacks.

Bryce Kazmierszak scored two touchdowns, including one defensively on the first play of the game as he ripped the ball from the running back

and dashed 50 yards to the end zone. Jae'Veon Reed, Ma-Khai Mosley and Brayden Sears also all intercepted passes, and Philip Jackson recorded three sacks in the one-sided game.

"The defense is stout and improving weekly with standout performances by Mosley, 'Kaz,' (Marques) McKenzie, Reed, Sears, Ty Alford, Emory Wimberly, Kellen Battles, Sammi Croft," Broughton wrote.

Mosley ran for two touchdowns and threw another TD pass on a 40-yard bomb to Seth Chestnut, Broughton wrote. McKenzie added a 15-yard touchdown run in which he dove to touch the pylon.

The 6U Wildcats lost for the first time this season in a back-and-forth 34-27 shootout to open the day. Both Ja'khyrie Mosley and Brian Rosier scored twice, but it wasn't enough to keep up with the high-scoring Tigers.

"The Tigers were big and fast and

looked like an 8U team," Broughton wrote. "The Wildcats had some great plays on defense but not enough to stop the Tigers."

Baker County's three-week home stand is scheduled to end on October 6 against Bradford. Bradford only fields a 8U, 10U and 12U teams, leaving Baker County's 6U team idle for the week.

The program will also honor long-time coach Kenneth Roberts, who has more than 50 years coaching experience and is currently the head coach at Baker County Middle School. The AYF program will officially be naming its field Coach Kenneth Roberts Field at the Cat's Den during a ceremony that will take place about 11:45 a.m.

"If you ever played for Touchdown Club come out and honor Coach Kenneth and let him know how much you appreciate him," Broughton wrote.

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# SPORTS

## B-Cats fall to Oakleaf in two-overtime thriller

**JON SHUMAKE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

After two dramatic game-tying touchdown receptions by Cam Smith, the BCMS Bobcats had the North Division's No. 1 seed in their sights.

But the team fumbled away the opportunity, setting up a playoff showdown with a rival.

Oakleaf's Drew Ammon accounted for four touchdowns on October 4 — two rushing and two passing — and scored the game-winning touchdown in the 34-28 double-overtime thriller at Memorial Stadium.

Ammon punched in the 1-yard score, giving the Yellow Jackets the No. 1 seed, on third down after Baker County (4-1-1) lost possession on a fumbled pitch play. The two teams piled as they fought for the ball, which was recovered by Oakleaf's Isaiah Shevchok.

As a result of their first loss, the No. 2 seed B-Cats will host the South Division's top seed Bradford on October 9 at 6 p.m. The winner advances to play the victor between Oakleaf and Lake Asbury for the Northeast Florida Athletic Conference championship.

Smith scored three second-half touchdowns, including two receiving scores from Davion Dean that equalized the score and prolonged the game.

Smith forced overtime with a 91-yard catch-and-run on a third-down pass from Dean. Smith caught the ball just past the first-down marker, made a defender miss and then out-ran the Yellow Jackets to the end zone with 1:23 remaining.

After Oakleaf's Devin Outlaw scored on a 2-yard fourth-down in the first overtime, Smith once again came up with a clutch reception. With the B-Cats needing a touchdown and facing third-and-goal from the 13, Smith caught Dean's pass near the 5 yard line and turned upfield, dragging Yellow Jackets across the goal line into the end zone.

Baker County failed on both of its 2-point conversions following Smith's touchdown catches, which would have given the B-Cats the win.

Ammon passed for 168 yards with two touchdowns to Jeremiah Shack, who had five receptions for 108 yards. Their second touchdown connection — a 7-yard throw — along with Outlaw's 2-point conversion gave Oakleaf a 22-16 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Ammon also completed passes of 37, 20, 18, 26 and 53 yards, the latter of which went to Trevyn Smith to convert a second-quarter third-and-17. The long play set up Ammon's 2-yard scoring run on fourth down, which gave Oakleaf a 14-8 halftime lead. Baker County regained



PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM

Cam Smith, who scored two game-tying touchdowns, reaches across the goal line for a 2-point conversion.

the advantage with a nine-play, 65-yard drive to open the second half. Cam Smith, who ran for a team-high 52 yards, exploded through the line-of-scrimmage on a quarterback run for 22 yards as he high-stepped into the end zone. Walker Avera converted the 2-point attempt.

The teams traded the lead throughout the first half.

The B-Cats took advantage of great starting field position early in the second quarter after Jayden Crawford recovered a fumble at the 11 yard line. Jabari Ruise

punched in a 2-yard score three plays later, and Smith's 2-point run gave Baker County an 8-7 lead.

The team pulled ahead after Ammon's 20-yard scoring throw to Shack late in the first quarter.

**B-Cats come from behind to beat Orange Park**

Trailing Orange Park 14-0 before their first offensive snap, Baker County's conference championships hopes were fading.

The B-Cats powered

ahead, though, and stayed on course.

Baker County rushed for more 300 yards and five touchdowns on September 25 and battled out of the early hole for a 38-20 victory at Orange Park. The victory guaranteed the program one of the North Division's top two seeds in the conference playoffs, which begin October 9.

Orange Park quickly pulled ahead, stunning the B-Cats with a touchdown on its first play of the game. Following the score, the host team recovered a surprise outside kick, which led to another touchdown to extend the lead to two possessions early in the first quarter.

"I'm not going to lie ... I was like, 'Wow, do we throw everything out and go spread and start passing the ball? Or do we just ... pound the ball on them?'" offensive coordinator Tucker Roberts said. "... They (the B-Cats) got a lot of fight in them."

After surviving the early storm, Baker County settled in and had the lead by halftime with the help of a couple key defensive plays.

Jaylin Maiden led the team with 135 rushing yards and two touchdowns, the first of which came on a game-tying 10-yard run off-tackle in the opening minute of the second quarter.

His touchdown run was set up by a fumble recovery by the defense. Orange

Park's bubble screen went behind the intended receiver, coach Roberts explained, and the B-Cats jumped on the ball after it rolled about 20 yards in their favor.

"We're taught out here because we do a lot of bubble screens, you see that ball going you better go get it," coach Roberts said. "... DBs was on top of it. They got it."

After the defense forced a three-and-out, the special teams blocked Orange Park's punt attempt. Avera scored on a 15-yard run up the middle, giving Baker County a 22-14 halftime advantage following the extra point.

The power rushing attack continued into the second half. Maiden's second score came on a 20-yard burst and Dean punched a 3-yard run into the end zone. Dean's score was set up by Ke'Nais Williams' 30-yard run, coach Roberts said.

Smith, who totaled 100 yards in 10 carries, got the B-Cats on the board in the first quarter with a 25-yard run.

Coach Roberts said the coaching staff challenged the offense entering the game after it combined for eight points in the previous two outings.

"You're relying on the defense so much for all these games and you've got to put points on the board, man, you've just got to do it. They got called out and they accepted the challenge," he said.

## Runners improve times

Five runners represented Baker County's cross country team on September 29 at the 10th Annual Alligator Lake Invitational in Lake City, which featured nearly 50 teams from Florida and Georgia.

Senior Jacob Echols once again led the Wildcats. He improved his time from Baker County's home quad meet on September 18 as he crossed the finish line in 23 minutes, 59.11 seconds, which earned him 89th out of 111 competitors in the Varsity Boys Green race.

Senior Jared Brown shaved more than four minutes off his time from the quad-meet, clocking a time of 25:18.70 for 97th place. He finished just three seconds behind the 96th-place runner.

Junior Juan Torres also improved his time from his previous outing, running a time of 27:59.93 to round out Baker County's boys.

For the Lady Cats, junior Cassie Turner finished less than a second behind the 71st-place runner as she crossed the finish line in 28:38.70, which was more than a two-minute improvement over the quad-meet. Only 15 seconds separated the 67th to 73rd-place runners in the Varsity Girls Green event.

Junior Marissa Brown ran a 29:59.77, which earned her 81st out of the 93 runners. Her time was roughly a four-minute improvement from the quad-meet.

Baker County was scheduled to host a quad-meet on October 2. The cross country team is next scheduled to compete on October 13 in the Seventh Annual Amelia Island Pirate Invitational. Twenty programs have already had runners register for the event.

## FSPA: Finals in 5 events

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Baker County swimmers qualified for finals in five events at the FSPA Invitational Swimming and Diving Meet on September 29 in Stuart, and the swim team had swimmers finish in the top 10 in eight events at the developmental meet held the previous day.

Overall, Baker County scored 55 points to finish 21st out of 33 programs at the invitational.

Braeden Knight advanced to the finals in two individual events and as part of two relay races. He posted the team's best showing of the invitational, placing third in the Men 100-yard butterfly as he improved his time to 51.70 seconds. He also bettered his time in the Men 50 freestyle, clocking in an 11th-place time of 22.16.

Trent Mobley was Baker County's only other swimmer to qualify for finals individually. He cut nearly two seconds off his time in the Men 100 breaststroke, finishing 10th with a time of 1:01.78.

Seth Crawford and Andrew Rosepiller joined Knight and Mobley in two relay events in which the Cats improved their times. The group swam a ninth-place time of 1:33.82 in the Men 200 freestyle relay and finished 13th in the Men 200 medley relay with a time of 1:45.26.

Baker County had five swimmers post top-five showings at the developmental meet held on September 28.

Domenick Endel had the team's best outing. He cut three-tenths of a second off his time in the Men 50 freestyle for a second-place time of 24.80.

He also finished third in the Men 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:22.99, which was nearly a four-second improvement in the event. Ryne Jacobs (1:21.04) finished 13th and Dakota Walker (1:26.28) took 18th as they both bet-

tered their times.

Jacobs cut almost a second off his time in the Men 100 freestyle as he clocked a third-place showing of 56.16. Walker's 20th-place time of 1:04.56 was 2.51 seconds faster than his previous best.

In the Women 100 breaststroke, Gracie Wainright's third-place time of 1:22.99 was almost four seconds better than her previous best.

Wainright was also a member of two relay squads that finished in the top 10. She was joined by Natasha Turner, Christina Slater and Brianna Thornton on the sixth-place Women's 200 freestyle relay team, which clocked in at 2:02.56. The Women 200 medley relay team — Gracie Rogers, Wainright, Thornton and Turner — posted a time of 2:24.42 to finish eighth.

In the Women 100 freestyle, Turner (1:04.98) took fifth and Thornton (1:06.58) 10th as they both set personal



Trent Mobley takes a breath while swimming the breaststroke.

bests. Haley Harris made the largest improvement among Baker County swimmers, shaving 5.28 seconds off her time to touch in at 1:24.32 in 42nd.

Slater swam a 10th-place time of 2:32.97 in the Women 200 freestyle. Thornton (2:35.82) took 12th and Cadee Crawford (3:47.57) claimed 48th.

The swim team is scheduled to hold Senior Night on October 4 at the YMCA pool

on Lowder Street. The season is set to continue on October 9 at Columbia.

**Cats stay unbeaten**

Baker County held off both Clay and St. Augustine in a close tri-meet that had numerous events decided by less than a second.

The Cats won seven events on September 25 to outpoint St. Augustine 279-247 and the host Blue Devils 261-256, including two victories by less than three-tenths of a second.

Mason Platto eked out the closest win of the meet in the Boys 50-yard freestyle. He touched in just four-hundredths of a second ahead of St. Augustine's Carson Weed with a time of 23.83. Rosepiller finished just after with a third-place time of 25.25.

In the Boys 500 freestyle, Jacobs held off teammate Landon Prevatt by .28 seconds with a time of 5:54.30.



Photos by Jessica Prevatt

Braeden Knight dives off the blocks to start the 100-yard butterfly.

Knight, Mobley, Crawford and Platto teamed together on a pair of first-place relay squads. They swam a time of 1:47 in the Boys 200 medley relay and clocked in at 1:35.91 in the Boys 200 freestyle relay. The medley relay B-Team — Rosepiller, Prevatt, Endel and Jacobs — finished fourth at 1:57.76. The 200 freestyle B-Team — Walker, Dalton Ray, Haydon Bridges and Tyler Altland — took third with a time of 2:10.74.

Mobley also finished second in the Boys 200 freestyle with a time of 1:56.68, touching in .34 seconds behind Adam Montgomery of Clay's first-place time.

The Girls 200 freestyle A-Team — Bliss, Turner, Peterson and Ash — finished third (4:21.64). The B-Team — Cheyenne Powell, Thornton, Wainright and Croft — took fifth (4:58.11).

Boys 400 freestyle: A-Team — Rosepiller, Prevatt, Endel and Jacobs — came in third (3:59.07). The B-Team — Walker, Ray, Bridges and Altland — finished fifth (5:13.84).

Girls 200 medley: A-Team — Bliss, Ash, Peterson and Turner — finished third (2:17.48). The B-Team — Rogers, Harris, Savanna Powell, Slater — finished sixth (2:52.04).

(1:13.19) third.

Platto (55.23) and Endel (58.78) took second and fourth, respectively, in the Boys 100 freestyle.

In other individual results featuring a Baker County swimmer finishing in the top three:

• Girls 200 freestyle: Croft (2:27.18) came in third, Slater (2:39.30) fifth.

• Girls 100 breaststroke: Mady-Bell Ash (1:20.65) took third, Wainright (1:28.38) fifth.

• Girls 500 freestyle: Slater (6:42.03) claimed third, Cheyenne Powell (7:15.12) sixth.

In other relay results:

• Girls 400 freestyle: A-Team — Bliss, Turner, Peterson and Ash — finished third (4:21.64). The B-Team — Cheyenne Powell, Thornton, Wainright and Croft — took fifth (4:58.11).

• Boys 400 freestyle: A-Team — Rosepiller, Prevatt, Endel and Jacobs — came in third (3:59.07). The B-Team — Walker, Ray, Bridges and Altland — finished fifth (5:13.84).

• Girls 200 medley: A-Team — Bliss, Ash, Peterson and Turner — finished third (2:17.48). The B-Team — Rogers, Harris, Savanna Powell, Slater — finished sixth (2:52.04).

# Graham runs wild

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Scooby Graham couldn't contain his smile after his punishing performance in Palatka.

The sophomore running back had every reason to be happy on September 28: Palatka's defense had no solution to slow him down as he carried the BCHS Wildcats to their fourth straight win.

The workhorse rushed for 241 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries, and the Cats held off the Panthers' second-half rally 28-21 to remain unbeaten in District 5-5A play. Graham gained 147 yards with a 4-yard touchdown run in the third quarter alone as Baker County (4-1, 2-0) repeatedly pounded the ball from the I-formation.

"It feels great. That success puts a smile on my face, man, a big smile on my face. Just makes me happy that I can do it over and over again," said Graham, who averaged 8.6 yards per carry in the dominant third quarter. "The I-formation is a killer, man. The line dominated. All I had to do was follow behind their blocks. They opened up a hole and I hit it."

Baker County's defense held Palatka to just 100 offensive yards and forced the Panthers (3-3, 1-1) into three-and-outs on seven of their first nine possessions. The unit also sacked quarterback Mitchell McKinnon six times and safety Chris Smith sealed the victory with an interception in the closing minute.

"That's two weeks of practice and just taking pride in defense and what we do," Smith said following the game with the turnover championship belt draped over his shoulder. "We know we got one job, and that's stop the offense, and we take pride in that job."

And the defense came away with important stops in the second half as the Panthers clawed back into the game.



Purchase these photos at [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com) Photos by Jud Johnson  
Scooby Graham runs through Palatka's defense. Below: Robert Baker drags down the ball-carrier.



Palatka's Jaylyn Session scored two second-half touchdowns, the first of which came on an 80-yard kickoff return midway through the third quarter following Graham's second scoring run. Treyvon Williams fielded the kickoff off a bounce, but handed it Session, who took the reverse down the home sideline to the end zone to steal the momentum.

After Kelton Knabb's 2-yard touchdown run reopened a two-possession lead, the Cats appeared to once again be in control. But offensive miscues — a fumble on a botched quarterback-center

exchange and a turnover on downs on fourth-and-1 — gave the Panthers the opening they needed.

Following the fourth-down stand, a fourth-down conversion brought the Panthers

field on a screen pass for a 41-yard gain, to cut the score to 28-21.

Baker County went three-and-out on its ensuing drive, losing 19 yards on the final play of the series when an errant snap sailed over quarterback Alex Bowen's head.

"We didn't let ourselves get down because we know what we're capable of and putting teams away," Smith said. "We just all got together and said, 'We was going to finish it,' and we finished it."

Palatka's potential game-tying drive, which began at its own 35 with four minutes remaining, stalled after Session converted a fourth-and-1 with a 7-yard

## Game at a glance ...

Baker County 28  
Palatka 21

### BCHS Team Stats

Rushing: 46-295-4 TD  
Passing: 5/10-27-2 INT  
Total Offense: 322

### Palatka Team Stats

Rushing: 24-39- TD  
Passing: 6/15-61-TD-INT  
Total Offense: 100

### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

**RUSHING**  
Scooby Graham 31-241-2  
Jaylyn Session 8-24-1  
**RECEIVING**  
Avant Lee 2-15  
Treyvon Williams 3-38

thers within striking distance.

Session powered in for a 1-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal with 6:24 left in the game. McKinnon converted the 2-point attempt with a completion to Williams, who earlier in the drive reversed

run. A holding penalty, an incomplete pass and a sack by Robert Baker forced the Panthers into third-and-25.

And they nearly converted it. McKinnon threw a deep pass down the home sideline, and Williams hauled in the contested ball for what appeared to be first-down yardage.

But Williams had run out of bounds on his own during the route and was the first player to touch the ball, resulting in a penalty that negated the long pass.

One snap later, Smith's interception ended Palatka's final hope.

"They had all the momentum and we still made two or three defensive stops there at the end that were big," head coach Jamie Rodgers said. "To be able to hold them off with that kind of momentum that they had at home that was big."

Baker County's offense had three turnovers, including a first-quarter interception by Camden Sweat that ricocheted off two players. He returned the takeaway to the 20 yard line, setting up McKinnon's 13-yard scoring pass

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## Season's second half starts Friday

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Sitting at 4-1 at the midpoint of the season, the BCHS Wildcats are right where head coach Jamie Rodgers hoped the program would be after five games.

And after having their best outings of the season in their last two games, the Cats could be in prime position for another postseason run.

"I thought if we can go 4-1, 5-0 we could set ourselves up for a good playoff seed if we could finish the second half of the season," coach Rodgers said on Monday. "The second half of our season's difficult, so ... if we can win them all, go 4-1, if we're able to do that I think we'll set ourselves up for a pretty good playoff spot."

The playoff push — which includes District 5-5A games against Orange Park, Ridgeview and Clay — kicks off on October 5 at First Coast in non-district competition.

The Buccaneers (2-3) enter Friday's contest on a two-game losing streak, but coach Rodgers still saw plenty of talent on film.

"Same as we always see: A bunch of athletic dudes," he said. "Their defense is athletic. ... Those guys can really run. On offense, they'll give you problems just for their athletic ability."

To be successful, the Cats will have to make First Coast's offense one-dimensional. Baker County has been successful defending the run this season, and coach Rodgers hopes to see that continue on Jacksonville's Northside.

"We pride ourselves on trying to take away the run," he said. "... In high school still if you can stop the team from running the football most of the time you've got a pretty good chance to win."

With an important District 5-5A game looming on October 12 against Orange Park (5-1, 2-0), Baker County can't overlook First Coast, which hasn't won more than four games since 2014. After Monday's practice, coach Rodgers doesn't think that will be an issue.

"It was a great practice today. We're focused," he said. "We're throwing in some wrinkles on defense and doing some different things, so that will be fun for them."

Follow this sports editor on Twitter @JonBCPress for live updates from the game. Check [www.bakercountypress.com](http://www.bakercountypress.com) following the game for a quick recap of the action, and read next week's newspaper for in-depth coverage.

## FHSAA Region 2-5A Power Rankings

Team	Points
Nature Coast	40.8
North Marion	40.6
Menendez (D)	40.5
Baker County (D)	39.8
Crystal River	39
Zephyrhills	38.8
Orange Park (D)	38.17
Palatka (D)	37.83
Eastside	37.8
Hernando	36.83

to Wesley Roberts three plays later.

Baker County wasted little time responding. Graham scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 17-yard run on the first play of the second quarter, capping a four-play drive that also saw him rip runs of 29 and 24 yards.

"He's a good talent. He runs the ball hard," coach Rodgers said. "He runs the right plays, and then he's really hard-nosed."

The Cats blocked a punt to end Palatka's following drive after the long snap rolled to the punter. Bowen, who rushed for 45 yards, scrambled to his left for an 11-yard touchdown run on third-and-goal.

Baker County improved to 12-0 under coach Rodgers in regular season district play since he took the helm in 2016.

"It's great because that means we're putting them up and burying them and going on to the next," Smith said. "Keep rolling our way through like last year."

### District 5-5A wrap-up

Baker County wasn't the only team to remain perfect in District 5-5A play in Week 6.

The Orange Park Raiders won their fifth straight game with a 36-7 home blowout over the Ridgeview Panthers on October 1. Baker County is scheduled to host the Raiders (5-1, 2-0) on October 12 for homecoming in an important district contest.

Menendez's Kenny Logan scored the go-ahead touchdown with 21 seconds remaining, lifting the Falcons 49-47 over the visiting Clay Blue Devils, who have lost four straight games. The Falcons improved to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in the district, while Clay slipped to 1-5 and 0-2 in the district.

The Cats and Orange Park are the only two District 5-5A teams in action on October 5 as both programs play non-district games. District play resumes on October 12.



Chris Smith, who sealed the win with an interception, carries a defender.

## JV Cats win 2nd game in 4 days

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Noah Ray and Jaymodd Ruise combined for four touchdowns on September 27, and the BCHS JV Wildcat football team won for the second time in four days 24-8 at Suwannee to remain undefeated.

"We just told them, 'Let's make history.' From what I can tell there's never really been a JV team that's been undefeated," head coach Hank Farmer said on September 28. "So I said, 'Let's make history. Let's go out and be 2-0 this week and let's get the next one next week.' They responded. ... The kids

fought hard, played good ball."

After Suwannee briefly took an 8-6 lead, Baker County (4-0) scored three quick touchdowns to pull away, coach Farmer said.

Ray threw touchdown passes to Ronnie Ellis and De'Heaven Clark. Ruise also added two rushing touchdowns for the second straight game.

"He's a baller. He's been running the ball real hard," coach Farmer said.

Baker County's defense had issues tackling, coach Farmer explained, but still played well enough to hold the JV Bulldogs to just one score.

The JV Cats' defense forced another turnover in the game after having four takeaways during the team's 20-0 shut-

out over Mandarin earlier in the week. Toby Kinghorn scooped up a fumble caused by Camillo Rollins and returned it about 15 yards, coach Farmer said.

The JV squad is scheduled to end its season on October 4 at Clay. The game was originally set for August 30 but was rescheduled due to weather.

Coach Farmer said the season finale is an important game because it is, in essence, a preview of the future in District 5-5A.

"We know we were going to see those guys on varsity eventually with the same group of guys," he said. "We win now we've got the edge in our mind that we can beat those guys."

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