



Wildcats fanatic honored at half-time of basketball game

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Record reader at BCHS touted for Literacy Week

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THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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75¢

JANUARY 23, 2014 THURSDAY

New Cat grid coach hired from Ridgeview

JON SHUMAKE
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The Wildcats have found their man.

Baker County High School announced former Ridgeview head coach Tom MacPherson as the new Wildcat head football coach on January 15 after narrowing the field down from almost 70 applicants.



Tom MacPherson

“His ability to make a difference in the lives of young men was very evident throughout this process,” said BCHS principal Tom Hill. “His tenure as head coach at his previous school was definitely better than most applicants. The number of playoff appearances for his previous teams was also impressive.”

Mr. MacPherson, a former St. John’s University wide receiver, leaves behind a Ridgeview program he built from the ground up and guided to success since its inception into the FHSAA in 1999. He led the Panthers to the playoffs in eight of his 15 seasons at the school and finished his tenure there with a 72-78 overall record. He posted a career-best 9-1 record in 2012, a few years after coaching Ridgeview to the third round of the State Playoffs in 2008.

“He’s the real deal,” said BCHS Activities and Athletic Director Melody Coggin. “He’s a dynasty builder, not a resume builder.”

In fact, he didn’t even have a resume to submit when he initially applied for his new position; he had to put one together to send in prior to his first interview in 15 years.

But the dilution of talent in Clay County was making it more difficult for Coach MacPherson to compete on a yearly basis at Ridgeview. Clay County’s talent was split six different ways, he said, with six high schools within 10 minutes of each other and Ridgeview’s

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Board rectifies secret ballot vote with public disclosure

See page 7



PHOTO BY JUD JOHNSON

Cats stretch win streak to nine

The Wildcat basketball team has been on a tear of late, pushing its win streak to nine games last week with lopsided victories against Terry Parker, Paxon and Clay. Pictured above from the Wildcats’ win against Paxon is Darius Fisher. He sunk this lay-up after stealing the ball. See page 13 for recaps of the action and additional photos. Visit www.bakercountypress.com to view the full photo gallery from the Paxon game.

Collecting names for medicinal marijuana



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Tampa-area petition gatherer refused to disclose identity.

Scant local support

JOEL ADDINGTON
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A Quinnipiac poll found last November that 82 percent of Floridians supported medicinal marijuana. But a signature collector working in Macclenny last week saw much less support for the issue here.

Though she would not identify herself, she said she was gathering signatures for placing a referendum on medical marijuana on this November’s ballot and this congressional district was short on its total. She revealed she was being paid for her efforts, she resides in the Tampa area and she’s a stay-at-home mom when she’s not helping with petition drives, something she’s done for the last 20 years.

“I’m not hearing 82 percent of the people I stop saying they want to sign,” she said. The women estimated only about one in five persons she approached outside the county tax collectors office on January 17 chose to support the medicinal marijuana ballot initiative.

After she and others working on the campaign were thrown out of other private properties here, including Walmart and Walgreens, and hearing she wasn’t welcome at the tax office either, the woman said the real issue of the day was not medical marijuana but freedom of speech and the right of citizens to petition their government.

“The ladies in the tag office have been giving me a bunch of crap,” she said, adding later, “... As Americans, we are losing our freedom. In different counties you can’t even be at the tag offices. In Orange County they kick you out of libraries.”

Still, she stood her ground and continued to solicit signatures from a small fold-out table and stool about 15 feet from the entrance to the tax collectors office.

“I hate to say it, but small towns equal small minds,” the woman

I hate to say it, but small towns equal small minds.

—Unidentified petition signature collector

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County keen on updated AC at courthouse

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Facing the likelihood that aging air-conditioning equipment at the county courthouse will have to be replaced in the near future, the Baker County Commission expressed a preference this week for a \$400,000 plan to install a state-of-the-art chilled water system that would meet most of the building’s HVAC needs for 30 years.

Even with the new system some rooms in the courthouse—including a computer room and others used by the State Attor-

ney’s Office—would continue to be served by several smaller units, which would cost an additional \$65,000 to replace, officials said during an hour-long workshop that began at 3:30 pm on January 21.

The only other option, which was rejected, was to replace existing equipment at a cost of \$262,000. However, the equipment would only have a 15-year life expectancy, so the total cost over 30 years would be \$524,000.

“I like the 30-year plan,” said Commission Chairman Jimmy Anderson, a commercial roofer



FILE PHOTO

The county courthouse’s HVAC system is ending its useful life after 13 years.

who works closely with air-conditioning contractors. “A chilled water system will be easier to maintain and light bills are going to be lower. We need to investigate going that route.”

The existing air-conditioning system was installed about 15 years ago, using Trane equipment and remains under a service contract with that company. Walt Herndon, a Trane account manager, discussed the options with board members and said the company agreed to extend its service agreement this year

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

What are your expectations for the Wildcats’ first football season under new head coach Tom MacPherson?

- 26% Winning record
- 24% Post season play
- 15% District title
- 35% None of the above

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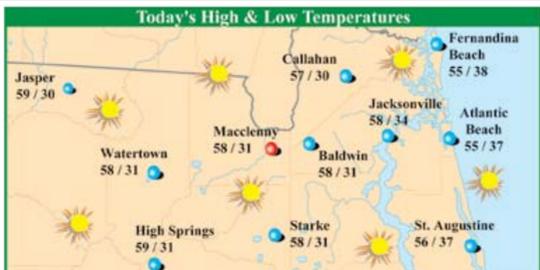


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The Baker County Press Weather

Seven Day Forecast

Thursday	Sunny	High: 58 Low: 31
Friday	Mostly Sunny	High: 52 Low: 32
Saturday	Sunny	High: 60 Low: 40
Sunday	Mostly Sunny	High: 62 Low: 42
Monday	Mostly Sunny	High: 60 Low: 38
Tuesday	Partly Cloudy	High: 57 Low: 39
Wednesday	Mostly Sunny	High: 58 Low: 34



Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tue, 1/14	68	45	66/42	0.97"	0.98"
Wed, 1/15	59	37	66/42	0.00"	0.82"
Thu, 1/16	50	30	66/42	0.00"	+0.16"
Fri, 1/17	64	28	66/42	0.00"	46.9"
Sat, 1/18	54	32	66/42	0.00"	54.1"
Sun, 1/19	63	28	66/42	0.01"	7.2"
Mon, 1/20	66	32	67/42	0.00"	

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Last 1/24	7:23 a.m.	5:57 p.m.
Thursday	7:22 a.m.	5:58 p.m.
Friday	7:22 a.m.	5:59 p.m.
Saturday	7:21 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:21 a.m.	6:01 p.m.
Monday	7:20 a.m.	6:02 p.m.
Tuesday	7:20 a.m.	6:03 p.m.
Wednesday	7:20 a.m.	6:03 p.m.

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moriac, GA	8.65 ft.	-0.32 ft.
Macclennny	8.84 ft.	-0.52 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	AM	PM
Thu	5:00-7:00	5:30-7:30
Fri	5:50-7:50	6:20-8:20
Sat	6:42-8:42	7:12-9:12
Sun	7:38-9:38	8:08-10:08
Mon	8:38-10:38	9:08-11:08
Tue	9:39-11:39	10:09-12:09
Wed	10:40-12:40	11:10-1:10

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

COMMENT

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

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Kudos for addressing water quality woes

It took Flipper turning up dead, but Florida appears primed to pass much-needed water resource protection measures this session. Baker County's own state senator, Charlie Dean, mentioned it during his stop here last October, saying it will be a major focus for him during the 2014 legislative session.

It's not the first time Sen. Dean has tried to tackle the issue, however. He's pushed for tighter regulations on septic systems, which experts say are contributing to the state's water quality woes. Of course there are other culprits too. There's fertilizers used in agriculture industry and by residents who must

have the greenest, lushest yard on the block, poor drainage infrastructure that washes storm water runoff into the natural environment after it picks up all the garbage we leave behind, plus sewage treatment plant discharges into water bodies. Together they dramatically increase nutrient levels in the groundwater, which feed algae that in turn kill plant and wildlife. But regardless, Sen. Dean has a heart for water issues

and should be commended for it. He wants to leave Florida a better place than he found it, or at least better than it is today. Now, it looks like the rest of the Florida Legislature and the governor is on board with him. A senate select committee formed over the summer to investigate die-offs of manatees, dolphins, pelicans and the sea grass in the Indian River Lagoon system along the east coast of the state. It's recommended the state spend \$220

million on water quality and water storage projects to address the problem. The governor announced this week some \$55 million in his budget recommendations for springs protection projects. He and others in top leadership positions are finally seeing that the state's economy and its environment will live and die together. The Florida Association of Counties, not surprisingly, is also in favor of water resource protection measures and the funding to make them happen. Counties surely realize that their water supply isn't just theirs. It's a shared resource we must all work to protect, lest we go the way of those mammals in the lagoon. It's a shame they had to perish for the state to take action, though. We've seen similar algae blooms and fish kills in North-east Florida for the past three years with little or no change

in water policy. The state and various industry groups have spent that time battling the EPA over how much nutrient load in our water is too much. Locally it's the St. Mary's River Water Management Committee that serves as the watchdog for water quality issues around here. Unfortunately, the committee, which meets monthly in Callahan with representatives from Baker, Nassau, Camden and Charlton counties, sees little in the way of support, either from state and local governments or the residents in those communities. There are a few who carry on the good fight, but there could always be more. And it just so happens the annual river clean-up is less than two months away in March. If you can't lend a hand, maybe just call your or e-mail our state leaders to tell them they're on the right track with this water stuff.

Scant support for medicinal pot

From page 1
 said. She said using marijuana for medical reasons should not be disregarded simply because of the "m-word," or marijuana. "It's not about recreational use at all," she said of the petition. In fact, when approaching would be signers, the woman would say, "This is so if somebody has a debilitating disease like cancer or glaucoma they can get medical marijuana." But others, even two young men who signed the petition that day, say allowing marijuana use for medical reasons is the precursor to legalizing marijuana for recreational use as well. Colorado and Washington recently decriminalized the drug with various restrictions after first legalizing it as a medical treatment. Twenty states have medical marijuana laws on the books

today, and adding Florida to the list would be a good idea, said the two young men who signed the petition and also asked not to be identified publicly. Even if it eventually leads to decriminalization in the Sunshine State. "I've heard good things," said one of them. "It's positive... If it's taxed, that's more money that goes back into the community. And there may be less crime." According to a report in the Tampa Bay Times, the organization leading the ballot initiative, United for Care, garnered enough signatures by the middle of last week to get the issue on the November ballot. But additional signatures were being gathered in the Jacksonville area to surpass a requirement that the referendum have support from a specific share of registered voters in at least 14 of the state's

27 Congressional districts, the Times reported. The signature collector at the tax collectors office said District 4, represented by Ander Crenshaw (R), didn't have enough names yet so the petition drive continued here and elsewhere in the district. The state Division of Elections is expected to certify the petition count by February 1. The Florida Supreme Court must also approve the actual language to be placed on the ballot. Should the proposed language, which Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi has argued is too confusing and violates the state's "single subject" requirement, be struck down by the high court, then the petition signatures will be invalid. That could mean the ballot amendment is delayed until the next election cycle in 2016. The ballot amendment, if

passed by at least 60 percent of Florida voters, would allow the purchase of marijuana from state-regulated dispensaries provided it's prescribed by a doctor for medical reasons. The amendment would not legalize growing marijuana for medical uses, the Tampa Bay Times report pointed out. Subscribe to our E - edition www.bakercountypress.com

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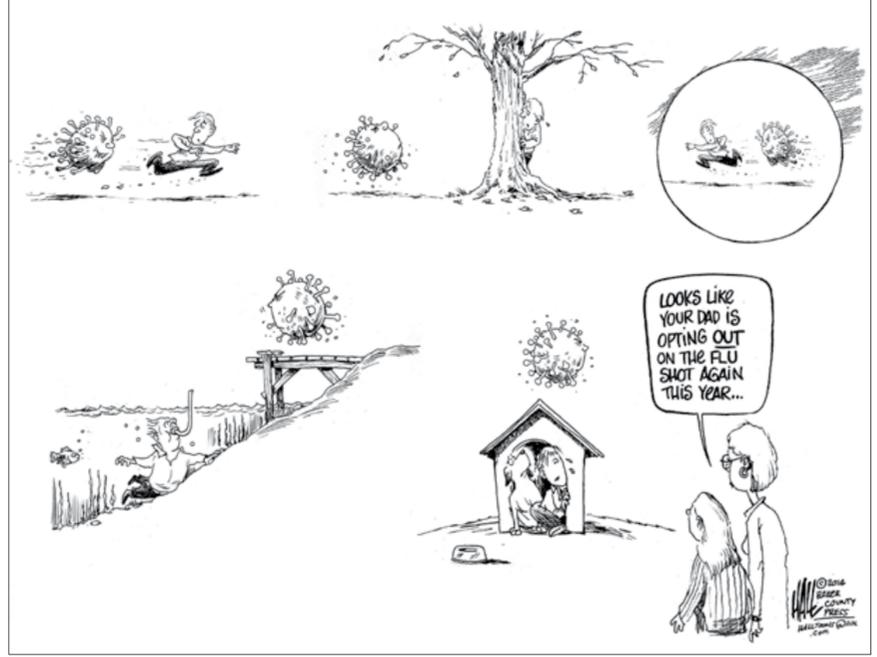
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Your view of 'yourself' often skewed

As I write this column, my favorite flannel shirt is in the washing machine to remove a coffee stain. The stain was fate's way of putting an exclamation point on something I talked about in my college speech class — intrapersonal communication, or how we communicate with ourselves and view the person that we are. Our image of who we are in this big old world has a lot to do with how we are able to communicate with others. How we view ourselves and the way others view us are not always the same thing. I often ask students to close their eyes and picture themselves standing in front of a full length mirror in their underwear. You may want to try that. I ask them to be as objective as they can in picturing what they see and then have them open up their eyes. As objective as they attempted to be when looking at themselves, chances are they either thought they looked better or probably worse than they really do. Another example: Have you ever heard your voice on a tape recorder? I imagine a collective groan

went out from my readers when they read that sentence. I feel the same way. As much as we hate the sound of our voice on tape, that is the way the rest of the world hears you. Yep — that's your actual voice. Awful isn't it? However, the people who listen to us don't think so because that's the way they hear us every day. The reason is simple. We don't hear the sound coming out of our mouths when we talk. We hear the sound waves bouncing around inside of our sinus cavities and it sounds completely different banging around in there between our ears. But we're used to it and so that's the way we think we sound. Similarly, our view of how we look is skewed. We base our vision of ourselves upon all sorts of things — past experiences, how we feel that day, what we're wearing and the way other people treat us. Sometimes it changes from day to day. Ladies will understand this next part clearly; guys, not so much. I'll illustrate with a phrase that resonates with every lady who reads it. *Bad Hair Day!* Every woman reading this is shaking her head. If you are having a bad hair day it doesn't matter that you woke up rested and feeling great, that it's sunny and 72 degrees. The day is now officially "crap." There are two kinds of bad hair days. The first is where you know from the start it's going to happen. No matter what you try in your vast bag of hairstyling tricks works and 30 minutes later it looks just as bad as when you started.

That's bad, but you can plan for it. The second level is the one that catches you by surprise. It looks great, you feel good and the minute that you walk out the door the 100 percent humidity makes it drop flat by the time you get to the car. A bad hair day makes us feel awful about how we look and a good hair day signals a good start to the day. So, if you're having a Bad Hair Day it colors the rest of the day for us and makes you very self-conscious. Probably no one notices but you. Most of us are much harder on ourselves than are others. Most of us don't have a bully following us around telling us that we're fat and our mama dresses us funny. But that doesn't matter a lot of times. We do it to ourselves. We remember all the stupid little things that happened to embarrass us, like when we wore white and fell in the mud. We remember when we went to a party and dressed completely inappropriately like the scene from *Legally Blonde* where the girl thinks it's a costume party and goes dressed as a Playboy Bunny. Most people forget and forgive our gaffs, but we inflate them. Which brings me back to my shirt and fate. I took a big sip of coffee and spilled half of it on my shirt. At age 17, I would have been horrified and my day ruined. At my current advanced age, I looked at it, smiled and said, "Think of that as today's visual aid." I hope you all have a week of Good Hair Days.

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Drive-thru driver hit with DUI

A Glen St. Mary woman was arrested for DUI, felony driving with a suspended license and having the wrong license tag on her vehicle the morning of January 16 after falling asleep at the McDonald's drive-thru on S. 6th Street while waiting for her food.

Tammy Combs, 43, then parked her 2003 Ford pickup in a parking spot and eventually switched places with passenger Christopher Combs, 42, of Sanderson. After a few minutes, Mr. Combs attempted to drive from the parking lot but was forced to wait on traffic to clear on 6th Street. Mrs. Combs exited the truck as the driver waited and Deputy Daryl Mobley, who was parked nearby, noticed she was unsteady on her feet and was walking slowly.

The officer initiated a traffic stop on Mr. Combs and the driver admitted to not having a valid driver's license, which had been suspended nine times and expired in September 2011. He told the officer that he found the license plate, which had been expired since August 2009, in his front yard before stating he took it off his previous vehicle.

Deputy Mobley checked Ms. Combs' driver's license and learned it had been suspended three times for failure to pay traffic fines. The deputy noticed her eyes were bloodshot and her speech was slow. She admitted to taking pain and anti-anxiety medication and to being at the wheel in the McDonald's drive-thru.

Due to her lethargic demeanor, she was asked to take a field sobriety test, which she failed, and was placed under arrest.

She was observed for a time at the Fraser Hospital emergency room before being booked at county jail.

In another incident, two Macclenny men were arrested on separate misdemeanor charges after being pulled over by Deputy John Minkel for an inoperable headlight the night of January 17.

Driver Anthony Pritchard, 22, told the officer that he had a valid driver's license but that he didn't have it on him. Deputy Minkel then learned he did not have a valid license and he was arrested for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Passenger Joseph Starling, 18, was arrested for possession of a glass smoking pipe with marijuana residue.

A Lawtney man was arrested on the evening of January 18 and charged with felony introduction of contraband into a county jail and felony driving with a suspended license after being pulled over by Deputy Jacob Satterwhite.

The deputy stopped Lynnwood Kirk, 37, after noticing the tag lights out on the driver's 2011 Chrysler. Mr. Kirk admitted to being a habitual traffic offender and that he didn't have a valid license. A records check showed the officer that Mr. Kirk was also on probation for driving on a suspended license.

The contraband charge was added after officers at the jail found a small baggie of marijuana hidden in Mr. Kirk's sock.

Deputy Trey McCullough arrested a Macclenny man during the night of January 15 on a second degree misdemeanor

for driving with a suspended license after the driver nearly hit the officer's patrol car. Andrew Hardenbrook, 27, drove into the Exxon Store parking lot on W. Macclenny Avenue and swerved to avoid hitting the officer's car. The officer noticed the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt and initiated a traffic stop at the gas pumps. Mr. Hardenbrook was unable to provide proof of insurance and registration and admitted to having a suspended driver's license.

Deputy McCullough discovered that Mr. Hardenbrook's license has been suspended five times since August 2007 for failure to pay traffic fines and placed him under arrest.

Deputy Christopher Walker arrested a Sanderson woman late at night on January 20 after discovering she had an active warrant from Nassau County.

The officer pulled over Norma Lewis, 59, for having faulty equipment. She told him she had left her driver's license at her residence, so the deputy checked her social security number and learned of the warrant for failure to appear on a charge of driving on a suspended license.

Justin Dinkins, 25, of Macclenny was arrested for driving with a license that was suspended five times for failure to pay traffic fines on the early morning of January 15 after being pulled over by Deputy Christopher Walker for driving a vehicle with no tail lights.

Deputy Thomas Dyal

Other drug arrests

Traffic stops for minor infractions resulted in a trio of arrests for drug possession the past week, including one motorcyclist stopped for going 118 mph on Interstate 10.

Deputy Robert Simpkins said he first spotted the 2000 Honda driven by William Appleton, 19, of Yulee as it entered the eastbound lanes from the road shoulder just east of Macclenny about 10:45 pm on January 16.

The bike quickly accelerated to speeds above 100 mph as it weaved in and out of traffic. The deputy said he was able to close the distance before clocking the Honda and stopping it.

He learned via a computer database that Mr. Appleton had been issued four tickets for reckless driving in the past three months.

A routine search turned up a canvas bag in the driver's jacket that contained a small amount of marijuana and smoking pipe. Mr. Appleton was booked at county jail on misdemeanor possession charges and ticketed for reckless driving.

Deputy Thomas Dyal

pulled over a 2002 Honda car on Orbey Rhoden Rd. near CR 127 north of Sanderson the evening of January 17 after seeing it stopped in the road then turning without a signal.

Driver Glenn Stapleton, 47, of Jacksonville consented to a vehicle search due to past drug possession charge, and the deputy found a baggie with cocaine on the driver side floorboard. A second baggie containing marijuana was found in Mr. Stapleton's pants pocket.

He was charged with felony possession of the coke and a misdemeanor for the pot.

Passenger Alisyn Hysler, 20, of Macclenny was taken to jail after she produced a single hydrocodone pill during a consent search the evening of January 13.

Deputy Chris Walker stopped the 1999 Chevrolet truck Ms. Hysler was riding in on South 6th at Barber Rd. in Macclenny about 7:30 for having an obscured license tag. He also charged Joshua Thornton, 28, of Glen St. Mary with driving on a license suspended as an habitual offender.

Youth's foot broken by backing van

County deputies filed complaints following a half-dozen altercations the past week, including one that resulted in a fractured foot.

A 13-year-old male sustained the injury to his right foot when it was run over by a van backing out of a driveway off Ben Rowe Circle the afternoon of January 19, according to Deputy Jacob Satterwhite.

The youth and Casey Lauramore, 21, were attempting to stop the 2000 Chevrolet driven by Malissa Tubberville, 29, of Macclenny, who had come by about 5 pm accompanied by Mary Thornton, 34, of Macclenny to pick up the latter's child.

Mr. Lauramore, the child's father, and the juvenile told the deputy they tried to stop the van because they feared Ms. Thornton was intoxicated.

Deputy Satterwhite filed a complaint for aggravated battery against Ms. Tubberville.

In other incidents, Thomas Starling, 48, of Macclenny was named in a complaint for battery on his estranged wife Pamela Starling, 47, and two others following an altercation at a residence on Tom Wilkerson Rd. the evening of January 14.

Ms. Starling, accompanied by Mario Scott, 53, and Justin Dinkins, 25, also of Macclenny, said they drove up to the residence about 8:40 pm and were confronted by Mr. Starling.

They told Deputy Thomas Dyal the accused struck Mr. Dinkins and attempted to pull him from Ms. Scott's 2013 Suzuki, then struck her when she attempted to intervene. Ms. Starling said she was struck in the head with a beer tossed by her husband.

Mr. Starling denied the allegations, insisting that Mr. Dinkins became angry when

he refused to purchase prescription pills from his wife.

Deputy Tony Norman filed a domestic battery complaint on January 15 naming Robert Ousley, 51, for allegedly striking longtime girlfriend Trina Bell, 42, in the face during an argument over tools that had been pawned.

Police were called to the couple's residence in the Pine Oaks trailer park south of Macclenny that morning.

A similar complaint resulted after Deputy Jeremiah Johnson responded on January 16 to county jail where Tina Dobbs, 36, of Macclenny accused boyfriend Adam Carey, 31, of attacking her while they rode in a vehicle on Interstate 10.

Ms. Dobbs said the accused became irate over her alleged drug abuse, punching her and slamming her head against a window. Mr. Carey was not

located.

Campus deputy Allen Marley filed battery complaints against four female students, ages 13 and 14, for an alleged attack on January 16 against another female, 14, at Baker County Middle School.

The attack occurred as the accused were returning from lunch and the victim was on her way to the cafeteria.

A 51-year-old male patient at Northeast Florida State Hospital accused a fellow male patient, 22, of striking him repeatedly about the head the evening of January 17.

Four implicated in pair of break-ins at local feed store

Two adults and two juveniles, one of them related to the store owner, have been charged in connection with two break-ins at Bennett's Feed on US 90 in west Macclenny during the night on January 15.

Police say nearly \$100 in coins were taken from two cash registers, along with four pocket knives valued at over \$100.

Deputy Jeremiah Johnson said the four suspects were in a vehicle stopped north of Glen St. Mary later that morning following a tip from store owners Benny Jo and Patricia Bennett.

Their young relative, 17, who has the same north county address, was driving the vehicle and also had a baggie of marijuana and a smoking pipe in his possession. He admitted later to investigators he used some of the stolen money to purchase the pot at Baker Manor in south Macclenny.

Also in the vehicle was the youth's 19-year-old pregnant girlfriend Emily Atkinson, 19, who also has a north county address on Benny Jo Bennett Rd., Kyle Williamson, 20, and another 17-year-old male who resides off CR 129-B in Glen.

During subsequent interviews with sheriff's investigators at county jail, they learned that the 17-year-old relative used a knife to gain entry into a locked door and the others either entered with him or stood watch outside during both burglaries.

A surveillance video depicts

two males rifling through two cash registers.

The suspects then took the coins to a counting machine at Winn-Dixie after the first haul, and to Walmart for the same purpose after the second.

Mr. Wilkerson and the two juveniles were charged with felony burglary and petty theft of both the coins and knives, and the related youth with possessing both marijuana and the pipe.

Ms. Atkinson, said to be in a late-term pregnancy, was first released after questioning then later named in a complaint after investigators learned she was an accomplice.

In a second theft report, a 15-year-old female was named as a likely suspect in the disappearance of five rings worth a combined \$2000 from the home of Ann Rhow on Arnold Rhoden Rd.

Ms. Rhow told Deputy Earl Lord on January 14 she had custody of the girl, and had not seen her since Christmas Day when she took her to her father's residence in Jackson-

ville.

The case was referred to an investigator from the Department of Children and Families. The teen could be charged with felony theft due to the rings' value.

Police responded to a foreclosed and abandoned house on the afternoon of January 17 for a criminal mischief and theft complaint.

Deputy Brandon Kiser met with Quinton Halliburton, who reported the situation, upon his arrival at 10412 Hollie Road. Mr. Halliburton works for a mortgage company that was maintaining the property near Cuyler.

He told the deputy he noticed damage to several rooms including the bathroom sink, tub and outside bladder tank while inspecting the house earlier in the day. The damage appeared to have been a result of removal of the wires from within the walls.

The house is likely to be demolished due to several large holes in the ceiling that caused massive damage.

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Checked into motel to dodge his arrest

Police arrested a Lakeland man for resisting arrest without violence late in the night of January 15 after he ran into the woods and checked himself into a hotel to avoid being arrested on an active warrant.

Deputy Robert Simpkins responded to a call about a suspicious vehicle at the Country Club Lounge and he was questioning its occupants when Christopher Oleskiewicz, 42, walked off to a wooded area. Deputy Simpkins also learned that Mr. Oleskiewicz had an outstanding warrant out of Indian River County.

The deputy searched the nearby wooded area to no avail. During the search, an employee of a neighboring Burger King informed the officer he saw a male run from the woods toward Woodlawn Road.

Since Mr. Oleskiewicz didn't have a local address, Deputy Simpkins checked with local motels and found the suspect at the American Inn. The officer spotted the suspect through the window of his room but Mr. Oleskiewicz ignored the deputy's instructions to open the door.

Deputy Simpkins got a key from the clerk and entered the room where he found the suspect sitting on the bed. Mr. Oleskiewicz admitted to running from the scene because he knew of the outstanding warrant.

In another related incident, a Macclenny woman was arrested on the evening of January 16 for disturbing the peace and resisting officers without violence after police were called to her residence three times that day.

Romona Robertson, 26, had been involved in verbal altercations with neighbors throughout the day. Deputy Koty Crews and Sgt. Bill Starling tried to make contact with her upon their arrival to no avail.

Ms. Robertson's neighbor, Zella Graham, informed the officers the suspect had been causing a disturbance in the area and had started a verbal confrontation with her prior to their arrival.

Ms. Robinson left her residence and approached Ms. Graham's residence and began yelling at her as she spoke with the officers. Once the suspect saw the deputies, she ran back toward her residence and refused to halt. The officers began pursuing her, but she entered her residence and locked the front door.

The officers entered her house through an unlocked back door and found her hiding behind a bed.

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Nabbed for iPad theft

County deputies made arrests or filed complaints after four instances of shoplifting and attempted shoplifting at the Macclenny Walmart the past week, most of them involving persons from outside Baker County.

In one of the cases, a 16-year-old Jacksonville boy questioned for an attempted theft early on January 17 ended up named in a complaint for stealing a \$400 iPad2 bag on December 16.

Deputy Trey McCullough said he recognized the face on the youth while questioning him and three others who ran from the store when confronted by a security worker shortly after 3 am. He stopped them as they appeared to be leaving with a shopping cart full of electronic merchandise.

Neither the boy, nor a 13-year-old male, a 14-year-old female or Timekia Robinson, 35, were charged with the offense because they did not exit the store.

Surveillance footage of the 16-year-old was still available, however, and shows him reaching through the counter and concealing the iPad before exiting. Deputy McCullough said the boy affirmed he was the person in the video.

In other cases, Tracy Allen, 44, and Tracy Benefield, 42, both of Orange Park, were arrested the afternoon of January 15 after they allegedly entered Walmart with old receipts, selected similar items then took them to customer service for cash refunds.

The suspects succeeded in getting refunds of just over \$79.

Deputy Robert Simpkins said Mr. Benefield admitted the receipts were obtained from Ms. Allen's mother. Police also learned the male suspect was wanted in Carroll County, GA for fraud and worthless checks.

Terrie Bennett, 26, of Macclenny was charged with petty theft of \$217 worth of merchandise the afternoon of January 17.

The suspect, a former store employee, was recognized as she left the store about 1:30 without paying for items that included a \$178 vacuum cleaner, diapers and soft drinks. She denied the allegation when Deputy Marc Heath showed up at her Barber Loop residence later that day.

Laci Conti, 29, of Sanderson was named in a complaint for tearing the tag off a \$5 pair of child's sunglasses the same afternoon, then allowing her young son to leave the store with them on.

Deputy Heath was also informed by store security that Ms. Conti allegedly was caught via surveillance video in December placing items in a shopping bag that had not been scanned at the self-checkout.

She later paid for the merchandise after telling police she was unaware they hadn't been scanned.

Couple arrested for wallet theft from school office

A man who went to Macclenny Elementary with his live-in girlfriend to enroll their child has been named in a complaint for stealing the wallet of a school employee from a purse under her desk.

Deputy Marc Heath said employee Tracy Wilford reported the wallet containing \$250 cash, a debit card, checkbook and other items went missing during the time that Wesley Zipperer, 25, and Amanda Weichman, 26, were in the office area filling out forms just after lunch.

Police traced the couple to an address on Laverne St. in Macclenny two days later, and Mr. Zipperer led investigator Rodney Driggers and Chris Volo to a trash can near Linda St. and Cardinal Lane in north Macclenny where the wallet was recovered.

The debit card and cash were missing. The complaint for petty theft was forwarded to the state attorney's office.

In another case of a stolen wallet, this one from a rest room at the Macclenny Winn-Dixie, authorities are seeking a suspect going by the name Kyaira Murphy.

Tracy Holland of Sanderson called police when she realized she left the bathroom just after 11 am on January 15 without the wallet and returned to find it gone.

Deputy Jeremiah Johnson said a surveillance video showed the suspect enter and emerge shortly after while a male later identified as Randolph Soto, 33, of Macclenny waited outside. Ms. Murphy was identified by store personnel as the woman who signed a Western Union receipt about the same time.

She listed her address as on Rock Ct. in Macclenny, and there the deputy questioned Mr. Soto, who claimed he merely gave the suspect a ride and knew nothing of her whereabouts.

Ms. Holland told Deputy Heath on January 17 the card issued in her husband's name was used at a Cigo to pay for \$43 shortly after the theft, then rejected and seized at Family Dollar in Macclenny shortly after.

The card was presented by a female matching Ms. Murphy's description.

A 72-year-old Macclenny woman notified the sheriff's department on January 14 that an online payment account she hadn't used since 2010 was debited to \$865 on December 20 for purchases at Walmart.

A Sanderson man, 35, reported his Vystar card was used to make purchases for \$523 on January 17 and 18.

From page 1 for \$33,848.

If any of the existing conventional units burn out and need to be replaced this year, Mr. Herndon said, the expense will be absorbed by Trane.

"Our goal is to maintain it so that (equipment failure) doesn't happen," he said.

A chilled water system, which uses refrigerant to produce ice at night and gradually releases cold water through pipes during working hours to cool the building, is much more efficient than conventional compressors and air handlers that send expensive refrigerant throughout the piping.

"Right now, we're pushing refrigerant," Mr. Herndon said. "What we want to push is water."

County Manager C.J. Thompson said a 70-ton chilled water system would require "more upfront expense, but there would be the potential for longer term savings."

At the current age of the existing HVAC equipment, Mr. Thompson said, "it's subject to start breaking."

Mr. Anderson said it makes sense to install the best equipment that will last the longest and provide the most efficient heating and cooling.

"The temperature inside the building will be better controlled and mold won't be an issue any more," said Mr. Anderson, prompting Court Clerk Al

Fraser to interject a comment about mold.

"We've never had a problem, but we have had some mold in the past," Mr. Fraser said. "What we're trying to do is prevent a serious mold problem" that he said is mainly limited to one area on the west side of the building.

Mr. Herndon said that not only do chilled water systems last twice as long as conventional equipment, but they also significantly reduce energy costs. He estimated the annual electric bill at the courthouse would be about \$5,600 less with a chilled water system, or about one month's payment to Florida Power & Light.

Mr. Herndon further noted that a chiller system controls air flow better and would "dramatically reduce the humidity" in the courthouse, where he agreed mold "has been a problem."

He said chilled water units are becoming increasingly popular with governmental agencies throughout Florida, particularly in public schools and colleges.

"All governmental entities are looking 30 years down the road," Mr. Herndon said, adding that most public schools south of Brevard County "have gone to ice (chiller) systems as the only way to avoid killer electric bills."

Commissioner Anderson said the county's been lucky with the air-conditioning equipment at the courthouse so far, but that luck could run out any day now.

"We've been blessed with

the 15 years we've gotten for as much as that building stays cooled," he said.

Officials will begin exploring ideas for financing the upcoming air-conditioning upgrade when commissioners begin discussing the 2014-15 budget in the next few months.

The existing HVAC equipment at the courthouse was installed as part of a \$5 million expansion and remodeling of the historic structure 15 years ago. The county's portion of the cost was a \$2.7 million loan, which will be paid off in January 2015 with a final payment of about \$191,000, the county manager said.

That's just about when officials will be looking at financing the new HVAC installation.

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Baker County Medical Services director Dennis Markos (center right with scissors) cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the Rural Health Clinic near Fraser Hospital.

Rural Health Clinic opening

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Low-income Baker County residents without the money or health insurance to pay for needed medical care now have a place to go.

The Rural Health Clinic affiliated with Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital in Macclenny opened its doors on January 13 to eight patients who had made appointments, though walk-ins are welcomed, too.

The clinic sits on the south end of the hospital's 30th 3rd Street campus.

Kathleen Washburn, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, will see patients at the clinic with oversight from Dr. Jamal Salameh. It's open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 7 pm, and on Wednesday and Saturday from 8 am to noon.

The clinic is managed by Baker County Medical Services, a nonprofit organization which runs Fraser Hospital and its associated facilities including the Dopsos Family Medical Center and W. Frank Wells Nursing Home.

Dennis Markos, the nonprofit's executive director, said the clinic aims to serve the uninsured but it will also take Medicare and Medicaid patients, including those under HMOs. Patients without health insurance may be referred to help signing up for coverage via the federal healthcare exchange, he said.

Some of the uninsured may qualify for Medicaid coverage or government subsidies to buy private coverage offered through the exchange in Baker County from Florida Blue. It's the only insurer with plans available on the exchange for Baker County residents, but there are many to choose from.

Still, because the state has refused to expand Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare, there are others who don't qualify for Medicaid and don't earn

enough to qualify for government subsidies through the exchange, or about \$11,500.

There are nearly 1 million people in the state who fall within this coverage gap.

The Affordable Care Act as passed included a mandatory expansion of Medicaid to adults up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level and cuts to the money hospitals receive for care of the uninsured, called uncompensated care.

But since the Supreme Court ruled the expansion was optional for the states, and Florida has chosen to decline some \$51 billion in federal money over 10 years to fund nearly all of the expansion costs, hospitals here received the cuts in uncompensated care payments but not the additional federal funding from an expanded Medicaid program.

The cuts to Ed Fraser Hospital totaled about \$1.7 million, Mr. Markos said. If the state doesn't expand Medicaid, "all we'll be doing is providing more charity care," he said.

Nonetheless, providing care, whether uncompensated or not, is cheaper at the clinic. Mr. Markos said the purpose of the facility is to encourage uninsured patients with non-acute care needs — like headaches and the flu — to avoid accessing services through the emergency room, where care is the much more expensive.

"A lot of people come to the emergency room for things that are not really emergencies," he said, adding that real emergencies are things like cuts requiring stitches and broken bones. "It's much less expensive to treat them in this [clinic] environment," said Mr. Markos. "In the emergency room, you have doctors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You have backups of labs, X-ray and respiratory therapy around the clock. You are staffed 24/7."

The clinic meanwhile has evening hours and weekend hours to accommodate patients' work schedules, but it's open just 44 hours per week.



The Rural Health Clinic hosted a social in the lobby with Chamber members.

Ideally, opening a convenient walk-in clinic with primary care services for the indigent will encourage that population to visit more often and help them avoid more serious health problems that require hospital care.

"Hopefully we can keep them healthier by using this outpatient facility and primary care," Mr. Markos said. "If they come continuously to have their health updated, you minimize those acute episodes and hopefully reduce the cost of care while providing more care. That's the goal anyway with a rural health clinic."

The 5000 square-foot clinic's grand opening took place on January 16 with a social gathering and ribbon cutting ceremony that included fellow Chamber of Commerce members early that evening.

It took contractor Dana B.

Kenyon Company of Jacksonville nearby a year to build the clinic, which was funded by Baker County Medical Services without any outside money, Mr. Markos said. He estimated the total cost at nearly \$1 million. "This is for real basic primary care for people who don't have a family physician, primarily for those who don't have insurance and the county indigent since we have the indigent care responsibility," said Mr. Markos. "They can come here and get primary medicine on a sliding-fee scale based on income."

Please visit www.bakercountypress.com to see video from the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Home checklist

FROM STATEPOINT | SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

With a little easy home maintenance throughout the year, you can prevent emergency repairs down the line. Experts recommend posting a task checklist in a convenient location, such as on the refrigerator or a corkboard.

"Maintenance is usually a lot simpler than a repair, and a lot more affordable," says Chris Terrill, CEO of HomeAdvisor, a leading website offering resources for home repair and improvement projects. "Keep a checklist handy during the entire year, so you don't forget any timely tasks."

Here are six tasks HomeAdvisor recommends not to forget to complete each year:

- On a quarterly basis, test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Not only will doing so protect the safety of your family in the event of an emergency, it can also protect your pocketbook. The average national cost of repairing fire and smoke damage is \$4,195.
- Twice a year, clean your gutters and downspouts. To prevent damage, the downspout needs to be free of debris so it can release water three feet from your home's foundation. The average national cost of cleaning the gutter and downspout is \$181. However, the average national cost of repairing the foundation of a house can cost up to 24 times that amount.

• In the cooler months, take a day each year to check caulking for cracks, especially around tubs and showers. Cracks can let in water with no place for drainage, which will cause damage.

• Every fall complete an annual roof inspection to help prevent the need for major repairs or a roof replacement. The average national cost of hiring a roof inspector is \$360, whereas the average cost of replacing a roof is nearly 19 times that amount.

• Before the dog days of summer, hire a professional to service your HVAC unit. Doing so will increase its efficiency and prevent a breakdown. The cost of replacing and installing an air conditioning unit can be more than 13 times the amount of servicing one.

• Annually check for cracks in the grout of tile floors, which can allow water to seep into the floor and cause mold growth and rot. According to HomeAdvisor's Cost Guide the average national cost of repairing tile and grout is \$439. However, the cost of testing and removing mold can be up to four times that amount.

MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

'Memorializes' the secret vote

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Macclenny city commissioners last week affirmed the outcome of an illegal vote taken by secret ballot on December 30 that resulted in the appointment of Cecil Horne Jr. to fill the empty seat created by the death of former Commissioner Tommy Johns.

Only this time commissioners voted audibly, rather than anonymously as they did on two separate secret ballots that ended in a 2-2 tie, which was broken by a coin toss won by Mr. Horne over former county commissioner Alex Robinson.

Mr. Horne works as a landscaper and substitute teacher. He's the grandson of former county commissioner O.C. Horne.

There was no second coin toss at the January 14 board meeting because the first one was conducted openly, unlike the votes which were not recorded in violation of Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law.

Mayor Gary Dopsos, who spoke in a raspy voice and had a cough, apologized for the way the appointment was handled but insisted there had been no intentional skirting of the Sunshine Law.

"I wouldn't be here tonight if we didn't need to rectify the unintentional results of the December 20 board meeting," said Dr. Dopsos, adding that he was sick and on medication. He then turned to City Attorney Frank Maloney to explain the situation.

Mr. Maloney, who conducted the appointment proceedings and flipped the coin that broke the tie, said that after *The Press* "brought to our attention that there may have been a Sunshine Law violation" he researched the issue.

After reading Florida Supreme Court rulings and two attorney generals' opinions on Sunshine Law issues, he said he concluded that there "may have been a technical violation."

He then told commissioners that to be "100 percent correct" they would have to reaffirm their December 30 vote for the public record, each one stating for whom he had voted.

"Reaffirming the vote, or memorializing the vote, will make it 'sunshine bright,'" Mr. Maloney said. "That's the language of the Supreme Court."

Mayor Dopsos then called for "memorialization of the vote," after which he and Com-

missioner Mark Bryant said they had voted both times for Mr. Horne, while Commissioners Vern Bennett and Sam Kitching said they had cast their two ballots in favor of Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Kitching said he viewed the situation as one the city could only win because both applicants were well qualified to serve.

"I felt like we could not lose and we have an excellent commissioner," said Mr. Kitching, who only joined the commission himself a few months ago and is seated next to Mr. Horne.

The Sunshine Law was enacted by the Florida Legislature in 1967 and is embodied in Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes, which establish a basic right of access to most meetings of boards, commissions and other governing bodies of state and local governmental agencies or authorities.

In addition to ensuring that governmental bodies conduct official business in a transparent manner in public meetings that have been duly advertised in local newspapers, the law also requires records be kept so citizens may review official decisions afterward.

In this case, however, commissioners committed the biggest infraction of the law by failing to sign their written ballots, which Mayor Dopsos, who has been a member of the

city commission for about a quarter of a century, said was a regretful oversight.

"The public had every right to know how each commissioner voted," he said. "We should have signed the ballots that night. I take part of the blame for that and I blame the city attorney for not advising the board."

"But for whatever reason it slipped my mind. That will never happen again, I can tell you that. And I don't think it's ever happened before. There was absolutely no intent to break the Sunshine Law that night."

When City Manager Phil Rhoden was notified of the potential violation by *The Press* on January 2 he said he would consult with the city attorney and individual commissioners. Later that day, he disclosed the vote tally, which has since been made a matter of public record.

Mr. Rhoden initially said he didn't think the Sunshine Law had been broken because a public vote would have been taken if anyone had questioned the procedure. Also, he said, anonymous voting had filled similar vacancies in the past, including the appointment of B.J. Cannon in 2002.

The public had every right to know how each commissioner voted. We should have signed the ballots that night. I take part of the blame for that and I blame the city attorney for not advising the board.

—Mayor Gary Dopsos



This is what Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver. Time of death: 6:35pm.

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Peas that fit into winter garden plans

ALICIA LAMBORN
HORTICULTURE AGENT

This winter, make good use of all the space in your vegetable garden by growing English, snow, or snap peas. These tasty legumes can be planted January to March in North Florida.

English peas: Garden peas that must be shelled before eating are called "English peas." There are many varieties to choose from and gardeners

only are snow peas cooked or stir-fried, they are also delicious raw. The pods of Oregon types are edible. Recommended varieties include 'Oregon Sugarpod' and 'Dwarf Sugar'.

Peas should be picked in prime condition and eaten or preserved as soon as possible after harvest.

Higher temperatures will cause peas to pass the edible stage more rapidly. Blanched and quickly frozen, they may be held in good condition for a year or more. Some good varieties for Florida include 'Wando' and 'Green Arrow.'

Snow peas: Also called edible-podded peas or sugar peas, these varieties closely resemble the English pea in plant and growth characteristics except that the pods are flatter, broader, more tender, and less fibrous. Entire pods, including the immature seeds, are eaten whole. Snow peas perform better under higher temperatures than the English pea, and are harvested before the seeds start to accumulate starch. Not



These edible-podded peas are soft and tender, but differ from snow peas in their round instead of flat pod shapes and thin pod walls. They are also so crisp, sweet, and succulent that they may be snapped into pieces and mixed into salads or eaten whole as an appetizer. They may also be stir-fried or steamed, and have a distinctive appearance and flavor.

Snap peas perform better under higher temperatures than the English pea, and are harvested while tender. Mature pods (2½ to 3 inches) require "stringing," while overgrown, fibrous pods should be shelled and combined with

other more-tender edible pods. Recommended varieties include 'Sugar Rae,' 'Sugar Bon,' 'Sugar Ann,' and 'Sugar Snap.' 'Sugar Snap' requires a trellis, reaching 4 to 6 feet. It has been reported to recover from frost and from cold down to 20°F.

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OBITUARIES

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Teresa Crawford, 71, dies Jan. 15

Teresa Elizabeth Crawford, 71, of Edgar Springs, Missouri died on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at Acosta Rua Center for Caring in Jacksonville with her family by her side. She was born in Melbourne, Florida on September 20, 1942 to the late Arthur Gordon Howell and Frances Camilla Mock Howell. Teresa resided in Missouri for the past 20 years after moving from St. George, GA in 1994. She retired from Phelps County Regional Medical Center of Rolla, MO after many years of service as a certified nursing assistant. Teresa enjoyed worshipping Jesus, working in her church, sewing, embroidery, quilting and caring for her plants.



Teresa Crawford

Mrs. Crawford is survived by her husband of 53 years, Thomas "Tom" Crawford Sr. of Edgar Springs; children Elizabeth JoAnn (Craft) Crumpler of Jacksonville, Brenda Christine (Jimmy) Story and Barbara Gail Roark, both of Rolla, and Thomas Luther (Cindy) Crawford Jr. of St. George; brother Don Gordon (Becky) Howell of Macclenny and sister Patricia Jane Williams of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Saturday January 18 at 10 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services chapel in Macclenny with Rev. Bill Hadden of Cornerstone Pentecostal Holiness Church officiating. Interment followed at St. George Cemetery.

Service for Marie Fish on Saturday

Marie Florence Fish, 70, of Middleburg died on Friday, January 17, 2014. She was a lifelong resident of Middleburg who loved shopping with her grandchildren, cooking and spending time with her family and friends.



Marie Fish

Ms. Fish was preceded in death by her husband Mr. Robert Benny Fish. She is survived by son James (Joy) Fish of Middleburg and Robert Fish of Gainesville; brother Richard (Peggy) Ouellette of Tampa; grandchildren Wyatt Fish of Middleburg and Brittany (Cory) Groover, both of Middleburg; nieces Jean (David) Anderson of Green Cove Springs and Erica (Russell) Ward of Greenville, South Carolina.

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm, Saturday, February 1 at Forbes Funeral Home Chapel in Macclenny with Pastor David Thomas officiating. Interment will follow at North Prong Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the chapel for an hour prior to the service.

Judy Kelley of Keystone Heights

Judy M. Kelley, 63, of Keystone Heights died on January 17, 2014 at her residence with family by her side. She was born in Arkansas on December 11, 1950 to the late Benton McCrary and Vera McCrary. Judy was a resident of Keystone Heights since 2009 after moving from Macclenny. She attended the Church of Pentecost in Jacksonville and retired from Vistakon in 1996 after 16 years of dedicated service as a contact lens inspector.



Judy Kelley

Judy loved to read, watch crime and mystery television shows, and she enjoyed playing softball. She was an avid Alabama Band fan and most of all she loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Tonya Roton and grandson Andrew Parrish.

Mrs. Kelley is survived by her loving daughters Tammy Roton of Keystone Heights, Angela Norton of Macclenny and Jamie (Larry) Swink of Jacksonville; brother Billy McCrary of Macclenny; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Monday, January 20 at 11 am at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services chapel in Macclenny with Pastor Rick Olson officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Cemetery.

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Sara Mann, 76, of Sanderson

Sara Jane Mann, 76, of Sanderson died Saturday, January 18 at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center following an extended illness. She was born in Macclenny and had made her home in Sanderson for the past 42 years. She was a homemaker and member of the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny. She played on the girls Baker County High School basketball team that won the state championship in 1956.



Sara Mann

Mrs. Mann enjoyed growing flowers, working in her garden and cooking for her family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Hettie Hodges Thrift and her late husband Donald Mann. She is survived by daughter Lisa Jane (Donnie) Simmons of Jacksonville and son Donald (Robin) Mann of Sanderson; grandchildren Chris (Traci) Mann, Jennifer Raulerson, Richard Mann, Ashley Green and Lacey Green; great-grandchildren, Kristina Jaseonek, Trey Jaseonek, Journie Mann, Eden Mann and Gabey Green.

The funeral service was held at 11 am on Tuesday, January 21 at Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church with Pastor Oral Lyons officiating, assisted by Rev. Justin Griffis. Interment was in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Sanderson, Fla. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.



In loving memory of
John R. (Buck) Davis
11/9/1937-1/25/2013
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Though your smile is gone forever and your hand we cannot touch, we still have many memories of the One we loved so much. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our heart.

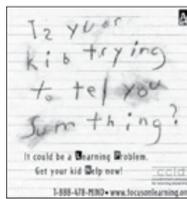
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Sun. Morning Worship . 11:00 am
Sun. Evening Worship . . 6:00 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study . . 7:00 pm
Dr. Roy Vining

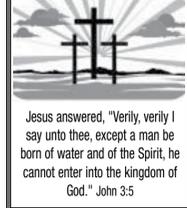
Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church
CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

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Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church
121 North + 259-4461
Macclenny, FL
Pastor **Tim Chesbire**

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm



Community Full Gospel Church
12664 Mud Lake Rd.
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm
Pastor Tommy Richardson || 904-255-2949

New Hope Church, Inc.
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Faingrounds Rd.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Services 5:00 p.m.
Pastor **J. C. Lauramore** welcomes all
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CFT SERVICE TIMES:
Wednesday, January 22nd
-6:20 Family Dinner
-7:00 Adult Worship Services
-7:00 Youth Worship Services
Sunday, January 26th
-10:00 Sunday School (All Ages)
-11:00 Morning Worship Service
-11:00 Children's Church
-6:00 Evening Worship

November, December 2013 land transactions ...

These are land sales filed at the Baker County courthouse between November 27, 2013 and December 31, 2013, according to the Clerk of Courts online database. The first name is the former owner and the second name is the new owner. That is followed by the sale price in dollars, and any comments noted like subdivision lot or parcel information.

Combs, Timothy L to Heilman, Linda L for \$125,700 in LT 53 FOX RIDGE ESTATES

US Bank NA Trustee to Jones, Dorian for \$125,000 in PAR 13-A HIGHLANDS

Federal National Mortgage Association to Wagner, Kirk L for \$124,900 in LT 67 ROLLING MEADOWS

Harvey, Richard M to Buettgen, Sara N for \$124,000 in LT 50 FOX RIDGE ESTATES PHASE 3

Shepard, Dorothy J to Vittegow, Zachary S for \$120,000 in 24-25-21E

Burnsed, David Josie Jr to Wind, Stephen A for \$118,000 in 06-25-22E

Padgett, Kathy Juaneice to Brinson, Mackenzie L for \$117,900 in LT 11 BLK 29 GLEN SAINT MARY

Wood, Michael D to Suntrust Bank for \$112,706 in

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Stephenson, James Jay for \$110,000 in

Thrift, David Joel to Barton, Paula T for \$110,000 in 17-25-22E

Snelson, Audrey M to Concept Development Lc for \$110,000 in 08-35-22E

Malavolti, Gregory S to Heath, Marc Andrew for \$110,000 in LT 16 HERITAGE OAKS

Whitney, Brent K to Rehili, Jesse J for \$109,900 in LT 3 BLK 52 MACCLENNY

Blakeley, Clifford John Jr to Cox, Vivian for \$108,500 in LT 3 4 BLK 4 MACCLENNY

Kennedy, Donald W to Kennedy, Phillip W for \$100,000 in LT 12 DAWKINS ADD

Dolan, Richard to Christian Fellowship Temple Inc for \$100,000 in LT 7 BLK 7 MACCLENNY

Jones, Mark to Moore, William C Jr for \$100,000 in LT 10 BLK 1 COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES UNIT 2

Collins, Shirley A to Raley, Scott for \$100,000 in LT 18 OLD NURSERY PLANTATION

Kirkland, Bruce W to Fletcher, Curtis L for \$100,000 in 17-35-21E

Cruz, Effain A Trustee to Cruz, Gary for \$93,300 in LT 3 BLK 3 OWENS ACRES UNIT 2

Thomas, Carolyn A to Griffin, Deborah L for \$92,000 in LT 17 BLK 6 JERRY W THOMAS SUB UNIT 2

Barton, Peggy S to Nunn, Jason S for \$90,000 in 01-25-21E

Carroll, Charles R to Johns, Linda D for \$85,000 in 11-35-20E

Fannie Mae to Staples, Johnnie Sue for \$85,000 in LT 19 BLK 8 ER RHODEN ADD

Huk, Jo Ann to Canida, William A for \$83,000 in 07-35-22E

Harris, Sherman to Bechtel, Terry L Jr for \$82,000 in 20-25-22E

Hay, Christian to Hines, Rickey D for \$81,500 in 08-35-22E

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Echols, Linda for \$79,500 in 16-25-21E

Glen Plantation Lc to Yarborough, Fred Wayne for \$77,500 in LT 1 FARMS AT GLEN PLANTATION

US Bank NA Trustee to Guest, David P for \$77,300 in LT 6 BLK 3 OWENS ACRES UNIT 2

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Norman, Deborah for \$76,000 in LT 36 CYPRESS POINTE UNIT 1

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Inc to Johnson, Juwana Niecon for \$75,900 in 06-45-21E

Chism, Michael S to Bayless, Kevin W for \$74,000 in LT 6 RIVERVIEW ACRES

Muse, Robert K to Crockett, Boynton for \$73,500 in 54T35R22E

Wilford, Matthew W to Yustar Credit Union for \$72,100 in 01-15-20E

Perret, Nathan E Trustee to Linstler, Christy for \$70,000 in 31-25-21E

Stewart Jack D to Liggins, John for \$70,000 in PAR 20 26-25-20E

Midfirst Bank to Secretary Housing Urban Development for \$68,400 in 32-25-22E

Thompson, Marcia K to Vermeey, Aaron G for \$67,000 in 35-1N-20E

Jacobs, Donnie Jr to Tillis, James

Wayne Sr for \$66,715 in LT 6 LONG-BRANCH

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Yarborough, Fred Wayne for \$66,050 in 29-25-22E

Federal National Mortgage Association to Thomas, Carolyn A for \$65,500 in LT 17 BLK 6 JERRY W THOMAS SUB UNIT 2

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Rhoden, Meshelle D for \$65,000 in LT 21 TIMBERLANE SUB UNIT 1

US Bank Na to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation for \$58,700 in

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company NA Trustee to Taylor Carl A for \$57,500 in 20-25-22E

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Holland, Melinda K for \$57,000 in LT 4 BLK 4 JERRY W THOMAS SUB

Allen Michael P to Huckleby Preston A for \$56,500 in 22-35-21E

Graves Christopher M to Crews Darrell for \$56,200 in LT 3 SCRUB OAK PLANTATION

Hall, Kyle A to Fish, Patricia L Trustee for \$56,000 in 08-25-22E

Perry, Stanley A Jr to Sikes, Elaine for \$55,800 in PAR 23 ALLEN LANDS

Britt, Margie Elaine to Vinzant, Patricia Ann for \$55,100 in 01-45-20E

Bank of New York Mellon to Tabb, Michael for \$53,000 in LT 5 36-25-20E

Secretary Housing Urban Development to Canada, Cassi J for \$52,700 in 35-1N-20E

Canford, David E to Morales, Stephanie for \$50,000 in BLK 23 MACCLENNY

Aberly, Robert W to Dudley, William Steve for \$50,000 in LT 6 THE GLEN AT ST MARYS

Thrift, Jody Paul to Thrift Log Homes Inc for \$50,000 in LT 10 QUAIL HOLLOW AT GLEN PLANTATION

Lynn, David Turner to Hufstetter David Milton for \$48,000 in 07-15-21E

Horne, Rozelle R to Konichowsky Roberta E for \$47,000 in 31-25-21E

Lee, Jeremy to Broughman, Donald for \$47,000 in LT 3 BLK 6 ER RHODEN ADD

Nimmo, Vivian to Crews, Darrell for \$45,000 in 12-35-20E

Mulligan, Mary Ann to Crews, Wesley G for \$45,000 in LT 40 06-35-22E

Miller, James David to Hodges Roger W for \$42,300 in LT 15 TURKEY

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'Tops' in box top race

Second grader David Behr Todd (at right) was the monthly box top collector winner at Mamie Agnes Jones Elementary School in Baldwin in January. He's pictured with his teacher Patti Cassiday, Mr. Todd collected more box tops this month than any other student at the school. The help featured propel Mrs. Cassiday's class to the highest box top total in the school as well, which won the class an ice cream party. Box tops from popular grocery store products are redeemed by local schools for supplies and other items from manufacturers. Check with your school's front office for more information on how to help in local box top drives.

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CREEK RETREAT UNIT III

Keller, Nora to Eldridge, Sandra for \$42,000 in 20-35-21E

Bennett, Ashley to Oglesby, Mahlon James for \$42,000 in LT 1 BLK 1 COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES UNIT 2

Smith, Randall E to Sikes, Robert M for \$40,000 in LT 54 COPPER CREEK HILLS UNIT 3

Rhoden, Thomas R to Rhoden, Meshelle D for \$40,000 in BLK 42 MACCLENNY

Brines, Anna M to Long, Thomas David for \$40,000 in LT 22 BLK B MACCLENNY II UNIT III

Richland Investment Properties Lp to Howard, Randall L for \$40,000 in 10-15-20E

Powell Ryan C to Powell Ryan C for \$12,000 in 05-35-22E

Lee Peggy L to Givens Vickey A for \$12,000 in 02-35-20-0000-0000-0175

Staten William Fotch to Fish Lamar for \$12,000 in PAR 34 35-25-21E

Hinkle Cletus V to Combs Timothy L for \$11,000 in 32-25-22E

Freeman Robert L to Monte John S II for \$11,000 in LT 4 FOREST ACRES

Rancano Ivan to Chabot Roberta J for \$11,000 in 06-35-22E

Mae Lillies Lc to Gaines Billy J Sr for \$9,000 in LT 46 CREEKWOOD

Baker County Clerk Of Courts to Arline Dorothy for \$7,000 in 38-25-19E

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Thrift Jody for \$7,000 in 32-25-22E

Baker County Clerk Of Courts to Jefferson Phillip for \$28,643 in 38-25-20E

Baker County Clerk Of Courts to Chapman Randall R for \$4,800 in 07-35-22-0092-0000-0340

Martin Leon to Cagle Donny for \$3,500 in

Baker County Clerk Of Courts to Davis Josie for \$3,260 in LT 1 SOUTH ESTATES SUB

Franklin Dodd Land Trust #10 to

Mcavoy Theresa to Forth James I for \$29,000 in 16-25-21E

Southern States Nurseries Inc to Blair Nurseries Inc for \$28,643 in 18-35-22E

Cp-Smofii2012-A Trust to Chism Michael S for \$26,400 in LT 6 RIVERVIEW ACRES

Jack Lee Constructions Inc to Gerard Thomas Jr for \$26,000 in LT 24 COPPER CREEK HILLS UNIT 3

Smith Mary E to Ali Nazir for \$25,000 in LT 5 CIRCLE G ESTATES UNIT 1

Anthony William Marion to Berry Stephen T for \$25,000 in PARCEL 2 10-15-20E

Mcavoy Theresa to Jurovski Traian for \$25,000 in TR 28 CEDAR CREEK FARMS 16-25

SCHOOLS

SOCIAL NOTICE INFORMATION

Birth announcements, wedding notices and social events (military service notes and school graduations) must be submitted within four weeks of the event. All news and advertising must be submitted to the newspaper office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication, unless otherwise noted or arranged. It is requested all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

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‘No-shows’ aid Cat wrestlers at Fla. Deaf meet

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The BCHS wrestling team went 2-1 at a quad meet at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind on January 17 that also had Wolfson and Raines scheduled to compete.

The Wildcats defeated Wolfson by forfeit when the Wolfpack didn't show up for the meet.

Forfeits also played a major role in the team's contests against the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and Raines.

The Wildcats lost to the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind 42-36 after forfeiting three weight classes gave the Dragons an automatic 18-point advantage. Baker County won six of the nine matches that took place, but the forfeits dug the team a deep hole they couldn't get out.

Four of the six Wildcat wins came via pinfall. Caleb Scott won by pin in the first round at the 160-pound class, Simon Brown at the 152 class and James Carter at the 195 class pinned their opponents in the second round and Johnny Ruise secured the pin in the third round of his 145-pound match.

The Cats also had two wrestlers win by decision after the match lasted all three rounds. Sean Mulkey won by a major decision with the point advantage 15-10 in his 182-pound contest. At 285 pounds, Colyn Green won by minor decision 4-1.

Justin Canterbury won by forfeit in the 220-pound class.

Forfeits may have been the reason the Cats lost to the Dragons, but the team benefited from five forfeit wins against the Raines Vikings en route to its 48-18 victory.

Shawn Martin at 120 pounds, Louis Handte at 132 pounds, Ian Finn at 138 pounds, Ruise at 145 pounds and Canterbury at 220 pounds all won by forfeit.

Wildcat wrestlers won three of the five matches they competed in against the Vikings, each by a first-round pin. Brown at 152 pounds, Carter at 195 pounds and Green at 285 pounds all ended their respective matches in the first round.

The wrestling team's season continues with two road meets at Ed White on January 22 and Fernandina Beach of January 25.

New grid coach hired away from Ridgeview

From page 1

players coming from four different middle schools.

Now, with the Wildcats, he will have the chance to be the only show in town.

"I knew the history and tradition of Baker County and I knew the athletes that were out here," Coach MacPherson said. "I knew they had one junior high and one high school and just thought this might be a pretty good place.

"Out here the little league kids and junior high kids are all coming to Baker County and to Wildcats," he said, "and I think that's something pretty special."

Mr. MacPherson said he plans on being involved with the middle school and little league programs in Baker County. He has already had lunch with BCMS head coach Rock Rhoden and plans on attending the Bobcats' games. Having the continuity from the lower levels through the high school program is one of the reasons the Baker County position was so attractive because it means players will grow up learning his system.

Those schemes include an up-tempo, no-huddle offense that resembles the likes of Clemson and Auburn. On defense, his teams run a 4-2-5 scheme, meaning they have five defensive backs, including three safeties, and two linebackers in their standard formation to combat the spread offenses that have dominated football in recent years.

He said he'll fit his scheme to best suit his players, and he'll have a better idea of what they'll be able to do once he starts teaching on January 27 and is able to analyze film with the coaching staff.

Mr. MacPherson will teach physical education and team sports at BCHS.

"Obviously, Wildcats want to win, but more than winning, I hope he will make a positive

difference in the lives of the students he teaches and coaches," said Mr. Hill.

But as excited as he is to begin anew in Baker County, leaving his program at Ridgeview behind was one of the most difficult decisions he has ever made, he said.

"One of the toughest three minutes of my life was that morning when I had to tell my kids [at Ridgeview] that I was leaving," Mr. MacPherson said. "I've been there for 15 years and I've been loyal. At some point sooner or later in your career you have to make a decision on what you want to do and I just felt like this was the right time and that this was the right place."

Still, Mr. MacPherson is looking forward to the new phase of his coaching career because of the community's passion for the Wildcats.

"Everybody has been great to me so far," he said. "It seems like a great place. Everybody loves their football and their athletics and they love their kids in Baker. The only guarantee is that I'm going to work as hard as anybody who has ever worked here. I'm going to coach these kids hard and love them as my own, and with the ones that stick it out, we can make some noise out here."

She's nuts over 'All Things Wildcat'

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Baker High Wildcats honored a special fan at last Friday's boys basketball game for her enthusiastic support of all things Wildcats.

At halftime Kanon Gonzalez, 10, of Glen St. Mary was presented with a basketball signed by the team in addition to a signed T-shirt from the girls weight lifting team.

"They made my little girl's night," said her father Gerald Gonzalez.

He said when Kanon was younger, the noise at sporting events, and basketball games in particular with the loud buzzers between periods, alarmed her too much to attend games. It's only been in the last year that Kanon's gone bananas for Wildcat sports.

Mr. Gonzalez said she loves Wildcat football or basketball games. She is constantly asking when the next game will take place and reminding her family about her desire to be there.

"We don't know where this comes from," he said. "This year, all of a sudden she's fine with it and she won't miss one game."

Kanon's enthusiasm hasn't gone unnoticed.

Head basketball coach Charles Ruise, who presented Kanon with the signed team ball on January 17, said his



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com Photo by Jud Johnson
Kanon Gonzalez, 10, was presented with a basketball signed by the Wildcat basketball team during half-time at last Friday's home game.

team manager suggested the gesture.

"She's been supporting Wildcat sports for a while now and we thought it was a good thing to show her how much that support means to the team and what they go out there to do ... Kanon is a big part of that and we wanted to recognize it. We just want her to know how much we appreciate the support," said the coach.

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Fitting conference face-offs

Like football fans everywhere, I planted myself on the couch Sunday and didn't move from 3 pm until bedtime watching the AFC and NFC championship games.

What shows they proved to be. As a rule, the conference championships usually prove to be better games than the Super Bowl and these certainly set the bar high for the big game in two weeks between Denver and Seattle.

The first game was billed as a match-up of the two top quarterbacks in the game. Both Peyton Manning and Tom Brady are shoe-ins for the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility and they demonstrated it on Sunday. Manning was masterful, checking off plays at the line, maneuvering players back and forth like a chess master and hitting pin point passes.

Brady was more quixotic, forcing balls into tight spaces and willing his team on a late surge. The Patriots might not have been at their best thanks to the Denver defense upping its game, but it made for exciting football.

In the end it was Manning and the Broncos continuing their record-setting season. Manning is nearing the end of his best season ever and arguably the best any NFL quarterback has had, so it is fitting that he should match up

in the Super Bowl against the top team in the league with the best defense.

For a while it didn't look like Seattle would get there. San Francisco was playing the better football because of the running of quarterback Colin Kaepernick. His long strides cut through a Seattle

defense keying on running back Frank Gore. Though his passing was not up to his running, Kaepernick kept the Niners in the game. In the final drive when he was able to find his receivers, it was exciting football indeed.

All game long, the Niners avoided throwing the ball toward Richard Sherman, the best cornerback in the NFL. On the last play of the game, however, they had no choice. Kaepernick tossed it in the corner of the end zone to Michael Crabtree. Sherman reached up and batted it away into the hands of linebacker Malcolm Smith to seal the win.

Of course, the only thing most people will remember about the titanic struggle was Sherman's rant to Fox correspondent Erin Andrews when asked to comment on the play. In the tirade that followed

he screamed about the Niner's choice to throw against the "best corner in the game" to a "sorry receiver like Crabtree" and how when you make that choice, "that's what you get."

It made for good TV and will certainly be the main talking point for the next two weeks as we get ready to plant ourselves back on the couch for the Super Bowl.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Mr. Ghandi Ayoub is requesting a special exception for the property he is leasing at 101 S. 6th Street, Macclenny, FL 32063. This property is zoned Commercial General and is currently used as a convenience store (Smoker Friendly). The special exception is for a 3APS Liquor License. The store has a 2APS for beer and wine only. The 3APS would allow for the packaged sales, only in sealed containers of liquor also. There would be no consumption on premises. There will be a Zoning Adjustment Board Meeting held on February 3, 2014 at 5:00 pm at City Hall. Any support or objections may be heard at this time.

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Antwan Major drives to the basket during the Wildcats' win over Paxon last week.

Cats soaring at 9 straight!

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

Coach Charles Ruise Sr.'s BCHS Wildcats extended their winning streak to nine games with blowout victories the past week over Terry Parker, Paxon and Clay to improve their overall record to 16-2 and remain a perfect 3-0 in District 3-5A play.

Charles Ruise Jr.'s team-high 30 points helped the Cats cruise by the visiting Clay Blue Devils with a 77-55 victory on January 18. The outcome of the game was never in doubt as Baker County went on a 14-4 run to close out the first quarter. Brian Walton scored 11 of his 17 points in the opening quarter.

The squad continued to control the game in the second quarter with a 12-3 run to open the second frame to lead by 21 at half time. The Cats stretched their lead to as much as 32 points in the third quarter before running the clock down offensively in the fourth to seal their ninth straight win.

The win over Clay came one day later as double-doubles by Walton (18 points and 10 rebounds) and CeCe Jefferson (10 points and 18 rebounds) catapulted the Wildcats to a 67-50 home victory over the Paxon Golden Eagles. Although the final score was another lopsided win in favor of the Cats, the Golden Eagles kept the game close through the first three quarters.

Paxon's defense didn't allow Baker County any space in the opening minutes of the game as the Wildcats were not able to get their shots to fall, which

allowed the visiting team to jump out to an early 8-3 lead. The Cats' offense eventually found its rhythm near the end of the first quarter. An alley-oop to Ruise Jr. sparked a 25-7 run for Baker County through the first and second quarters to give the home team a 13-point half time advantage.

The Golden Eagles tried to rally back after the break and pulled within four points of tying the game midway through the third quarter. The Cat offense responded with another big scoring run to pull away from Paxon and lead by 16 entering the fourth quarter.

Paxon repeatedly sent the Wildcats to the free throw line in the fourth quarter to try to extend the game as a last-resort comeback attempt. Baker County was almost perfect from the charity stripe as the team sunk 12 of its 15 free throw attempts in the quarter to secure the victory.

In addition to Walton and Jefferson's double-doubles, Ruise Jr. scored 15 points and the sharpshooting Jesse Gardner added 12.

Three players reached double-digit scoring when the Wildcats topped the visiting Terry Parker Braves 56-46 on January 14. Ruise Jr. had a team-high 18 points, while Jefferson added 14 and Gardner scored 10.

The Wildcats have just one district game before the district tournament begins on February 5, but it's the most important game Baker County will play during the regular season. The Cats will host the defending district champion Bishop Kenny Crusaders (14-5, 4-0) on January 24. The outcome of the game will have a direct

effect on the district-tournament seedings in February. A win for Baker County will allow them to be the tournament's top seed.

But it's not going to be easy for the Cats. The Crusaders are undefeated in district play and their five losses include a four-point defeat to Episcopal and a two-point loss against Trinity. It's going to be a tough game, but it's one the Wildcats have to win to ensure the top seed in the district tournament.

The critical game against Bishop Kenny isn't the only upcoming game for the Cats, though, who had to be careful to not overlook a trip to Madison County on January 21. See next week's edition for a recap of that contest. The team will travel to play Baldwin on January 25.



Brian Walton (at right) had 18 points and 10 rebounds in the win over Paxon.

Lady Cats rally to rise above .500

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The Lady Wildcats' hot streak during the closing weeks of the regular season continued as the team has won five straight games to pull above .500 for the first time since December 6 with a 12-9 overall record.

For the second time this season, BCHS narrowly edged out the Episcopal Lady Eagles as they won on the road 57-54 on January 14. The team trailed by 11 points entering the fourth quarter but rallied back through the final frame to close the gap.

Baker County took a three-point lead with 40 seconds remaining when Kiala Pigott sunk her free throw attempts to give her 11 points on the night.

The Lady Wildcats hung on as the clock ticked down to seal the regular-season sweep of Episcopal. Delicia Washington had another offensive outburst with a team-high 33 points.

"We kept our composure after we were down by 11 at the start of the fourth quarter and they played hard through the end," head coach Chris Chisholm said.

The girls' next three victories came a lot easier than the one against Episcopal.

Washington's 33 points once again led the Lady Cats as they easily disposed of the Baldwin Lady Indians 69-43 on the road on January 17.

The 26-point win was reminiscent of the team's blowout victory over the Lady Indians early in the season as the Lady Cats dominated the action and everyone had a chance to play. In addition to Washington's high-scoring night, Pigott also reached double-digits with 11 points.

The Lady Cats secured another road victory when they pulled away from the Forrest Lady Rebels in the second half en route to a 54-36 road win on January 20.

Baker County's offense was slowed down in the first half when Forrest's defense double-teamed Washington. This kept the game tight until Abby Rice

connected on a three-point shot before half time to give the squad momentum heading into the second half.

Washington still managed to score a team-high 28 points even with the added defensive attention, but other players stepped up in the second half to take pressure off the playmaker and help the Lady Cats pull away. Haley Bussell finished the game with 20 points to catapult the team to the blowout win.

The Lady Wildcats returned home on January 21 and cruised to their fifth straight win with a 63-50 victory over Fort White. The entire team saw the court in the lopsided game that saw the Lady Cats lead by as much as 26 points in the third quarter. The team slowed down its offensive attack in the fourth quarter, which allowed the visiting team to make the final score more respectable.

Washington scored 20 of her 27 points in the first half to help the Lady Cats enjoy a 15-point half time advantage. Rice was second on the team with eight points.

The Lady Wildcats will close out their regular season with Senior Night against the visiting Union County on January 23.

Then, the Lady Cats will turn their attention to the District 3-5A tournament, which is being held at Baker County and begins on January 27. Although the girls struggled through portions of the district schedule, they are beginning to gel as a team at the right time to make some noise in the tournament.

"We have a really young team," Coach Chisholm said. "The girls are



No. 40 Lindsay Love during Tuesday's 13-point win against Fort White.



No. 25 Abby Rice passes the ball down court.

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