



BATTLE OF OLUSTEE RE-ENACTMENT

February 14-16

Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm Campsites open
10:30 am Parade in Lake City
3:30 pm Battle re-enactment (small)

Friday: 9 am - 2 pm School tours
Sunday: 9 am - 12 pm Campsites open
12:30 am Period music concert
1:30 pm Main battle re-enactment



THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 42 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism including General Excellence in 2012

75¢

FEBRUARY 13, 2014 THURSDAY

Dies when Jeep flips on CR 127 Saturday

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Jason Christopher Carter, 39, of Macclenny, was killed Saturday night when his 2013 Jeep overturned on CR 127.

Mr. Carter's vehicle was heading south about 11 pm and veered into the north bound lane and off the roadway, according



Jason Carter

to the Florida Highway Patrol.

FHP said the Jeep hit a culvert and flipped, ejecting the victim who was not wearing a seat belt. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The vehicle had about \$12,000 in damage. FHP is investigating whether alcohol was involved.

Mr. Carter was a father, husband and former member of Iron Workers Local 597 in Jacksonville. According to his Facebook page, the Macclenny native attended Florida State College after graduating from Baker County High School.



Inventor Randy Smith of Macclenny displays his product, the Hair Care Hideaway, inside the Jacksonville warehouse housing his first shipment from China.

Rolls dice on the 'Hideaway' High hopes for invention

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
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Randy Smith has spent his professional life in auto parts sales and commercial real estate. He and his wife are nearing retirement. They have, after all, three kids, five grand kids and another one on the way.

So this is not really the best time to start a new business, especially one that's untested.

"We're at the age in life when we should be saving everything we got instead of investing it," said Mr. Smith, 57, during an interview with *The Press* on Monday. "But I think it will pay off."

After spending nearly six years designing his invention, a hair care products organizer, and spending thousands of dollars to make it a reality, he's too invested in "the Hair Care Hideaway" to stop now.

"This is my retirement," Mr. Smith said.

His first shipment from Star Glory, LLC in Ningbo, China — one full shipping container of merchandise — arrived at a Jacksonville warehouse this month. It's retail value could be almost \$80,000.

Fortunately Mr. Smith has financed the venture out-of-pocket, from getting a patent and manufacturing the first load to pitching the product to large retailers like beauty supply wholesalers and department stores which could carry the product to consumers.

"I'm not in hock to anybody. I'm in hock to myself," he said. "If this fails, I can back my truck up to the warehouse, haul them away to my backyard and burn them if I want to."

That's not to say Mr. Smith isn't confident his product is worth the \$119.99 asking price. "Once they see it, they like it," he said.

The Hair Care Hideaway began as a solution to a problem — clutter on the bathroom vanity.

Mr. Smith is quick to point out his wife and two daughters weren't the most organized with their hair care products, but he admits to using a blow dryer, too.

"I knew there had to be a better way to do this," said Mr. Smith. He tried to reorganize his existing bathroom, but nothing worked. He then thought about using the medicine cabinet less for storing

I knew there had to be a better way to do this.

—Randy Smith
Hair Care Hideaway Inventor

See page 4

Charred body is believed a suicide

The charred remains found near a burning car west of Glen St. Mary just before midday on February 9 have been identified as those of a Wisconsin man who had been visiting his mother in St. Augustine.

There was no apparent reason that Bruce Burnett, 21, of Appleton, WS was in a wooded area just north of the intersection of Smokey Rd. and Reid Stafford Rd. that morning, but police speculate he

See page 4

Meth lab at home with small children

The sheriff's department arrested two occupants of a mobile home southwest of Macclenny for cooking methamphetamine, and charged one of them with felony neglect because her two children were present in an environment with a danger of explosion.

Investigator Matt Yarborough said he received a telephone tip the late afternoon of February 3 that the activity was taking place at the residence of Carissa Rousseau, 22, on Ben Rowe Circle. Several occupants ran from the area when he and Deputy Chad Montean approached, and Ms. Rousseau initially denied any illegal activity was taking place there.



Ashley Abbott



Carissa Rousseau

She agreed to allow the investigator a cursory search inside for the safety of

the children, and he spotted two spoons with suspected meth on a closet shelf, plus nearby syringes and a plastic band. That prompted a quest for a search warrant that was soon obtained and the second search turned up processed meth in a baby wipe container amid baby products.

Officers also found a smoking pipe, spoons and syringes, other drug paraphernalia including a weighing scale and two Xanax pills.

Ms. Rousseau, whose live-in boyfriend is in custody on meth-related charges, was booked for possession of both meth and the prescription pills, possession of drug equipment and child

neglect.

Ashley Abbott, 24, of Glen St. Mary, said to be living at the residence as well, was charged with possession of meth and paraphernalia.

Others at the address that evening were identified as Lewis Churchville II, 27, and Kayla Flynt, 23, both of Macclenny, and Bruce Clough III, 24, and Jared Griffis, 30, both of Glen. They were not charged.

In other drug-related arrests:

• Ryan Dow, 31, of Macclenny was charged with felony possession of two kinds of prescription drugs, battery,

See page 4

Zoning board's vote on liquor store was invalid

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Two decisions by the Macclenny Zoning Adjustment Board on February 3, including the denial of a business owner's request for rezoning to permit the sale of liquor, were invalid and new hearings will have to be scheduled to consider the requests again.

City officials acknowledged

that they made a mistake assuming that only three zoning board members were required for a quorum to conduct official business, when, in fact, a city ordinance has required four members to be present at every meeting since 1999. Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough accepted the blame for the oversight during a meeting of the city commission on the evening of February 11.

"We found out something we didn't realize," Mr. Yarborough told commissioners. "The meeting we had (on February 3) is null and void. We've got to do a re-do."

The city will have to re-advertise the same two cases the zoning panel heard on February 3 and conduct another hearing, probably sometime in March, officials said.

In one case, the board ap-

proved a request for a zoning variance from American Enterprise Bank to place a new sign 5 feet from the right-of-way in front of the bank at 839 S. 5th St. Ordinarily, the minimum setback requirement for signs are 10 feet.

But it was the other case that generated the most controversy when Ghandi Ayoub, owner of Smoker Friendly at 101 S 6th St., asked the board to approve his

application to rezone his business as a liquor store, rather than a convenience store.

Mr. Ayoub told the board that he had contacted the state Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco and was told another liquor license was available in Macclenny and he planned to buy it.

The zoning panel denied the

See page 7

Glen man arrested for playing chicken with train

See page 5

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS
Should the City Commission overturn the zoning board's denial of a 4th liquor store in city?
38% Yes
54% No
8% Undecided
Visit our website and vote each week on our online poll.

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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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The Olympics are sure to also have a goofy side

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER
ROBERT GERARD

Last Thursday night I came home from *Broadway in Baker* rehearsals and there it was – the Holy Grail of television in the World According to Bob. That's right, the Olympic Games were on. I immediately texted my boys – Olympics NBC.

Within seconds, I got the same response – What? How? The opening ceremonies were still a day away, but some of the events started early. Women's moguls, team ice skating and snow boarding all began the day before the opening. Within minutes, the guys were all home piled up in the living room.

We watched the first-ever figure skating team event start. Wilowy guys in sparkly costumes spun and twisted through the air. The Russian star, Yevgeny Plushenko, lived up to his "rock star" status and got the Russian crowd rocking as he turned in a nearly flawless performance.

Not so American Jason Brown, who took a tumble early into the start of his routine.

"That was pretty pitiful," said son Spencer.

"He was probably just out there fooling around since the opening ceremony isn't until tomorrow," said son Dylan.

"Yeah, nobody told him that the competition has started," said Spencer. "He still think it's practice."

"I can hear him going back to his coaches," said Dylan. "Dude, it's a good thing this was just warm-up and didn't count."

"Yeah," added Spencer, filling in the scenario. "I would have hated to eat the ice like that when it really counted."

"What? Huh? What do you mean that we're competing?"

"Dude, the games haven't even started yet. I was just messing around."

"No way! That was for real?"

Though we kidded about it, American snow boarder Ty Walker was really worried. She was injured in an opening round the day before the ceremony and scared that she'd miss everything. "I got hurt before it started. Am I still an Olympian?"

Yes Ty, you are. She marched in on crutches.

A few minutes after the skating we're watching American snow boarder Sage Kotsenburg flying through the air on the way to a first place finish in Slope Style, a new event.

"Hey," said Spencer. "Go back."

I flip back on the remote to take the picture back about a minute. "Check it out, he's got his cell phone in his pocket."

Sure enough, clearly outlined in the pocket of his competition uniform is his cell phone. "I wish it would go off while he was competing."

"He'd probably answer midway through a trick and start You-Tubing the run."

"I wouldn't be surprised if he Tweeted just before coming down the hill," said Spencer. Sure enough, I found out later that he did.

I love the Olympics because as serious as it is to the athletes taking part, it also has its goofy side as well. At the opening ceremony, one of the mechanical Olympic rings didn't open up. It was clearly visible to everyone outside of the home country of Russia. In Russia, the television company showing the coverage intercut a scene from the rehearsal so that it worked perfectly. There's Russia for you.

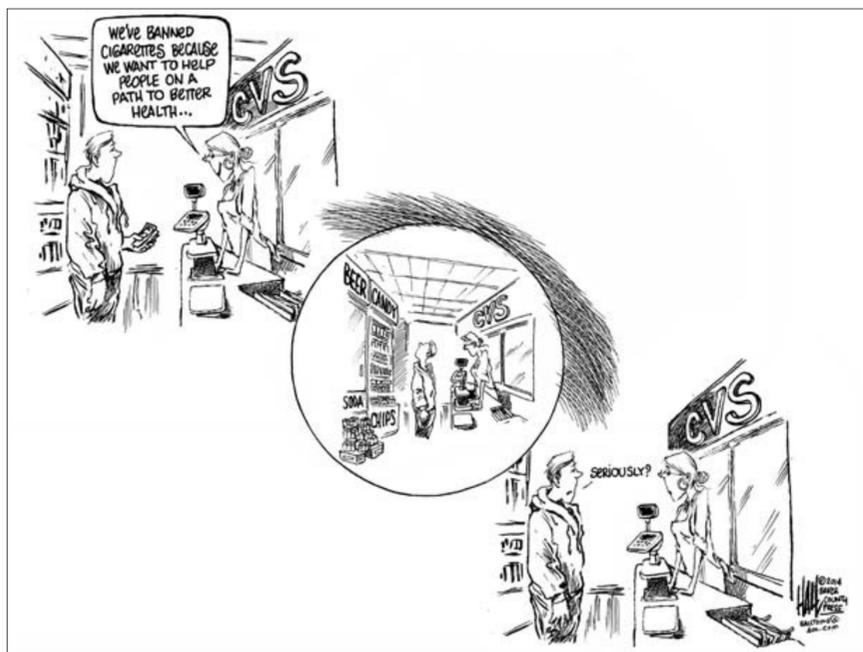
The lone athlete from Paraguay marched in, happily waving her country's flag. Turns out she was adopted at age six months and grew up in Wisconsin. She doesn't speak a word of Spanish, but wanted to compete in the Olympics.

Whether you're actually from a country isn't really all that important if you're a good athlete. If I was an Olympic quality athlete I could've competed for Great Britain if I couldn't cut the US team. My grandmother was born in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Some stuff was very serious, however. The luge track was slowed by 10 mph from a top speed of 95 mph to 85 mph because a competitor died at the last Olympics when he went hurtling off the track.

The downhill skiing competition is so fast that competitors are traveling at 70 mph within four seconds of leaving the gate. That's as fast as the acceleration on a Ferrari. Yikes!

I'm settling in for two weeks of Olympic sports.



Methheads gaining on the pillheads

When Macclenny's equivalent of the Mayo Clinic for pain pills was shut down in late 2011, I was in a conversation that went something like this:

Well, that should make it harder for the druggies for a while ...

"That's what you think."

came the retort. "They'll replace it with meth."

And they did.

It wasn't long after the pill doctor office closed that we saw our first bust of a "mobile" meth lab. A man known for drug use was stopped while driving in Glen St. Mary with all the ingredients for a nice, hairy batch of methamphetamine in his vehicle.

And there were small children in the car with him.

Since then, the scene has repeated, kind of like the ice cream trucks of old that rolled through the neighborhoods with amplified carillon tunes that beckoned us kids to run after them with quarters in our sweaty hands.

Except the risk of exploding ice cream trucks was minuscule. And what they sold us wasn't highly addictive from the first use, transforming us into zombies. Ice cream can, I suppose, rot one's teeth but not as fast or completely as methamphetamine.

You'll also notice a spike recently of meth manufacturing in houses and mobile homes scattered throughout the county.

In an alarming number of locations raided by police, young children always seem to be present. That fact is itself demonstrative of how addictive it is, that the parents (few of them are actually married) have no concept of what they are doing to offspring they brought into the world.

The day their houses or cars are raided should be the last day they have custody of those children.

When one considers the methheads they catch are likely only a minority of actual users, one realizes the prediction was valid. They've replaced the pillheads.

IMPRESSIONS
Jim McGauley



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION

CVS pulls smokes from shelves

CVS pharmacy makes waves last week by announcing its plans to pull cigarettes from its stores, so we went to Facebook to ask readers about the move. Here's a look at the responses:

Theresa Rhoden: If they are going to stop selling cigarettes, maybe they should stop selling alcohol too.

Marc Lyon: CVS carries three products that are detrimental to people's health. One causes 30 drunk driving deaths daily and another one (candy) causes more cases of diabetes and obesity than there are cases of smoking related lung cancer. But those two are popular among society. The one you ban the sale of? The one that is frowned upon by society. If I understand their position correctly, they are banning selling cigarettes because selling them is inconsistent with their intended purpose of helping customers have a better path to a healthy lifestyle, but will they still happily take the money of an obese person who comes in to buy a 5-pound bag of Hershey's Kisses ... Ya think?

Colleen Schaphorn Harvey: If they are that concerned about health, are they pulling the beer too? If you're going to be a health conscious store, go big or go home.

Richard Clark: They and their stock holders own that business. They can sell whatever items they choose.

Robert Thompson: They just like all the others, devote a very small part of the store to medicine. The rest of it is junk that you'd be crazy to buy there.

James Clay Rhoden: I am okay with the removal however the reasoning behind it leaves something to question. If

they want to be a health related business then go all out and be that type of business. To me it's no different than to drink, smoke and curse all week then show up in church Sunday morning. Just as hypocritical!

Mike Wyland: People will praise this. I don't care either way. Everybody is a fan of telling other people what they can and can't do until it's them being told no. That's what's coming folks. Keep taking away other people's rights to do what they want, just don't whine when it's you being told no.

Miranda Williams: Pull the alcohol off the shelf too!

Christopher Apronollo: All for the removal of cigarettes, but if they take away something you use then it's a travesty.

Chuck Alisha Redding: I think it's great! How can a health store sell products that are unhealthy? Mixed message! Good for CVS for clarification on what they are promoting!

Jim Nickles: It's their store; they can sell or not sell whatever products they wish. If we don't like it, shop somewhere else. Quite simple.

Sheina Deyoung: I don't buy them there anyway, so it doesn't affect me.

James Clay Rhoden: True Richard Clark, they can, but when Chik-Fil-A and their stock holders choose something they wish it becomes unrealistic? The best thing about it all is we can choose to be patrons of any establishment. So with that theory, it again brings Sunday liquor sales back up? Lol.

James R. Hart Sr.: Good for them for taking peoples health over profit!

April Waddell: Great! If they are so about health then they should pull the pizzas they sell and let's not forget the donuts and candy aisle ... also the fake

diet aides (false advertisement). Don't really care because CVS is too expensive anyway!

Robert Phillips: Cigarette prices at CVS are too high so I don't buy them anyway.

Charles Kemp: All should follow suit. Cigs kill people. They are no good. I hope all stores nationwide quit selling them.

Chuck Copeland: How long will it last? Cigarette sales are big money. A year maybe?

Sammi Younkens: It's going to suck for the smokers who live in Baker Man- who don't have cars.

Pat Pourbaix: I gladly support CVS for taking a stand on not selling cigarettes. Hope others will follow suit.

Christopher Brown: Noticed it was only in the US. This is, if you want to limit choice to the consumer, that is your business. I prefer Walgreen's anyway. If I were a shareholder, I'd probably be against this move.

Curtis Tharpe: I think having a fourth package store would be good. Walmart has a liquor store and that doesn't keep people from shopping there. This man is trying to make a living. He may hire more people if this were to pass.

James Knabb: I agree with the board. I went in there one time and they were displaying glass crack bottles on the shelf. That's the only clue I need that it's a bad environment. Therefore I completely agree with the board on the denial.

James Clay Rhoden: It is a proven fact that by limiting the hours of sales does reduce the chances of binge drinking and alcohol related problems and so does limiting the days.

Susan Ward: That's fine with me. We already have too many places that sell alcohol already. We don't need anymore.

Nick Mercorella: Free enterprise is a basic American principle. People who ask "what good will come from this" are missing the point. As long as they don't break the law, what they do with their business is their business. Too many people don't know how to mind their own.

Normal Jean AndJoe: It doesn't matter who sells it, or how many people sell it, if someone wants to buy liquor, they are going to buy it. I know Baldwin gets a lot of sales on Sunday because Baker chooses not to sell on Sunday.

Anna Denise Lewis: I don't drink but I think it is ridiculous that we are a dry county, mostly because of the religious people in this town. No big restaurants want to come here because we are a dry county. My opinion is just because they serve it on Sunday doesn't mean you have to participate in drinking it. I don't tell 'y'all that 'y'all can't go to church on Wednesdays and Sundays. It's none of my business. So how are you going to tell me I can't buy alcohol on Sundays? What I do is none of your business. And if you don't want to see somebody drinking on Sunday at a restaurant then don't go eat there.

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CANTALOUPE



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The Baker County Press Weather Feb. 13, 2014

Seven Day Forecast	
Thursday	Partly Cloudy High: 56 Low: 37
Friday	Sunny High: 65 Low: 43
Saturday	Sunny High: 66 Low: 40
Sunday	Sunny High: 69 Low: 44
Monday	Sunny High: 72 Low: 45
Tuesday	Mostly Sunny High: 73 Low: 49
Wednesday	Sunny High: 75 Low: 51

Today's High & Low Temperatures	
Jasper	56 / 36
Callahan	55 / 37
Fernandina Beach	55 / 42
Macclenny	56 / 37
Jacksonville	55 / 41
Atlantic Beach	55 / 43
Baldwin	56 / 37
St. Augustine	57 / 43
High Springs	58 / 37
Starke	57 / 38

Sun/Moon Chart This Week			
Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moon
Thursday	7:09 a.m.	6:15 p.m.	New 3/1
Friday	7:08 a.m.	6:16 p.m.	55 / 41
Saturday	7:07 a.m.	6:17 p.m.	
Sunday	7:06 a.m.	6:18 p.m.	
Monday	7:05 a.m.	6:18 p.m.	First 3/8
Tuesday	7:04 a.m.	6:19 p.m.	
Wednesday	7:03 a.m.	6:20 p.m.	

St. Mary's River Levels		
Location	Now	Change
Moriac, GA	8.87 ft.	-0.26 ft.
Macclenny	9.02 ft.	-0.48 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times	
Day	Peak Times
Thu	11:30-1:30 AM 11:00-1:00 PM
Fri	11:47-1:47 AM 11:17-1:17 PM
Sat	12:01-2:01 AM 12:31-2:31 PM
Sun	12:45-2:45 AM 1:15-3:15 PM
Mon	1:28-3:28 AM 1:58-3:58 PM
Tue	2:13-4:13 AM 2:43-4:43 PM
Wed	2:59-4:59 AM 3:29-5:29 PM

Weather History	
Feb. 13, 1889	It was the coldest morning of record along the Gulf Coast. The temperature dipped to 7 above zero at New Orleans and Pensacola, Fla. and to -1 degree at Mobile, Alabama. The mercury hit -2 degrees at Tallahassee, the coldest recorded reading for the state of Florida.



Photos by C.J. Thompson

Vandalism closes fishing pond

Vandals caused an estimated \$3500 to public property at the Little St. Mary's Park on the north side of US 90 between Glen St. Mary and Macclenny recently. The damage, pictured here, was discovered Tuesday morning by police, but it may have occurred over the weekend. Deputy Matthew Riegel noted the railings on two fishing docks on the east side of the park's pond were pushed down into the water and a wooden bridge traversing a drainage outlet was significantly damaged as well. County Manager C.J. Thompson said the park will be closed until repairs are finished. He said garbage cans and portable rest rooms at the park were pushed over by the vandals, too. Anyone with information regarding the vandalism is urged to call the sheriff's office at 259-2231.



Laid into path of a train

A Glen St. Mary man was arrested on February 7, three days after he allegedly laid down on the CSX tracks in the

area receiving a tip that Mr. Clough had bragged about the madcap prank and the resulting reaction by authorities.



Bruce Clough III

path of an approaching freight train and jumped out of the way 40 yards ahead of it. The incident resulted in a two-hour search of the area in downtown Glen St. Mary by officers of several agencies before they concluded there was no evidence that anyone had been struck by the westbound train about 4:40 that morning. Deputy Crews said he had contact with Mr. Clough and Jared Griffis, 30, a neighbor, about five hours earlier after a search warrant was served at a residence on Ben Rowe Circle where two others were arrested for possession of methamphetamine and other charges.

Mr. Griffis was with the suspect when they were spotted standing near the scene and questioned. Both denied being near the tracks at the time, nor seeing anyone running from the area.

An acquaintance and neighbor of Mr. Clough, Tamara Courtney, 29, told Deputy Crews that she witnessed him lay on the tracks before approaching trains "about ten times." She also said the suspect told her later that he was "too drunk and passed out on the tracks" the morning in question. He was charged with interfering with railroad tracks and equipment, a felony, and with trespass and disturbing the peace. Six other county deputies, a rescue crew, seven firemen and several CSX employees participated in the search.

County court dispositions

The following dispositions were ordered by County Judge Joey Williams during regular court session on February 5:

- Tracy Allen, petty theft; two days in jail, six-month probation and hold sign in front of retail establishment.
- Mark Angelo, driving on a suspended license and possession of drug paraphernalia; 12-month probation, 30 days house arrest and attend addiction meetings.
- William Appleton, reckless driving; 25 hours community service and attend addiction meetings.
- Terrie Bennett, petty theft; six-month probation and attend theft class.
- David Carpenter, no valid driver's license; court costs.
- James DeVane, expired license tag in excess of six months; six-month probation and obtain valid tag.
- Rebecca Folston, driving on a suspended license; six-month probation.
- Darrin Gibbons, disorderly conduct; court costs.
- Tymachee Givens, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage; court costs.
- Andrew Hardenbrook, driving on a suspended license; six-month probation, license class and obtain valid license.
- Terrio Harris, game law offense; court costs.
- Mary Houston, driving on a suspended license; 12-month probation and 30 days house arrest.
- Gary Jones, driving on an expired license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Kenneth Largacci, disorderly intoxication; court costs.
- Kaleb Newmans, possession of alcohol by a person under 21; 12-month probation and all DUI sanctions.
- Christopher Oleskiewicz, possession of alcohol by a person under 21; court costs.
- Michael Ragland, driving on a suspended license; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Michael Waldo, driving on a suspended license; six-month probation.



BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

The great 'ice' debate

To buy from new vendor for lower price

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Ice, once again, was a major topic of discussion during a recent county commission meeting. And the subject had nothing to do with recent freezes or global warming.

The issue was all about how much the county has spent on ice in the past and what can be done to reduce the expense in the future to ensure that outdoor county work crews have plenty of cool water to drink.

Instead of buying or leasing ice making equipment, as was discussed last month, commissioners voted on February 4 to accept a recommendation from the county manager to continue buying bagged ice.

However, a new vendor will sell the bags of crushed ice at a much reduced price than the county has been paying in years past. County Manager C.J. Thompson told commissioners.

Mr. Thompson reported last month that the county had spent about \$10,000 with Reddy Ice in the past two years, at \$1.76 per bag. After a story ran in *The Baker County Press* on January 30 about the ice controversy and the county's aim to lease filtration and ice-making machinery, Mr. Thompson said he received a couple of offers from interested ice suppliers.

The most attractive offer, Mr. Thompson said, came from Jeremy Walker, owner of C&W Ice, who quoted prices ranging from 80 cents for a 10-pound bag to \$1.15 for bags weighing 22 pounds. Mr. Walker offered to furnish the county a refrigerated storage box in the road department building and said he would deliver ice any day of the week.

Mr. Thompson said the county's tab for ice last year came to \$4,197. Buying the same amount of ice with the reduced price would save the county about \$2,950, he said.

"It's a very substantial savings," he told commissioners. "That would be staff's recommendation."

Commissioner Adam Giddens said he had no idea the county was spending so much money on ice and was glad to hear that a better deal had been offered.

"I didn't realize we were using that much," he said. "That's a lot of ice. It (C&W Ice's offer) sounds good to me."

Commissioner James Croft, who originally suggested researching ways to reduce the county's ice expenditures, im-

mediately moved to accept the offer and Mr. Giddens seconded the motion. Without further discussion the board unanimously approved the deal.

Commissioners had previously decided against the more expensive option of buying an ice making machine and a filtration system, which Mr. Thompson said would be needed to purify water at the road department building due to its high

iron and sulfur content.

In other business on February 4 commissioners:

• Approved a one-year agreement with Trane Building Services to maintain and service air conditioning equipment at the county courthouse. The \$33,848 contract price will be paid in four quarterly installments of \$8,462

each.

Commissioners voted last month to extend an existing maintenance agreement with Trane for one more year to buy more time to figure out how to finance a major overhaul of the courthouse's heating, air and ventilation system next year. Officials estimate that cost could hit \$400,000.

• Adopted a proclamation in recognition of the 125th year since public health services in Florida began when state lawmakers created the State Board of Health on February 20, 1889 following a yellow fever epidemic that swept through the state in 1887-1888.

In the ensuing years, public health departments were gradually installed statewide, including one in Macclenny in 1940. Today, the Baker County Health Department is in a 25,000 square foot, modern medical facility on West Lowder Street.

• Commissioner Adam Giddens

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Rolls dice on 'Hideaway'...

From page 1
medicine and more for storing appliances. In that way, the Hideaway is a replacement for a standard-sized medicine cabinet.

The unit fits into the wall and features two large appliance holders for a blow dryer and curling iron as well as smaller storage space for a beard trimmer.

Below each compartment at the bottom of the cabinet are covered holes where the appliances' power cords feed into tubes. The cords are connected to weights that retract them after use. The cabinet, which measures 19 inches tall, 15 inches wide and 4 inches deep, has a power outlet mounted inside that requires some wiring upon installation. The cabinet has a beveled mirror on the exterior.

Mr. Smith, a Jacksonville native who moved to Macclenny at age 5, designed the prototype at home back in 2008 and paid about \$3000 to have it built in Oviedo, Fla. in Seminole County. After some final design tweaks, like extending

the tubes and adding the tube caps, the only barrier to large-scale manufacturing was cash, so it took some additional time to build up the capital.

"The biggest part was that I didn't have a bunch of money to invest in it to do it all at one time," Mr. Smith said. "The people I talk to today tell me they can go from a concept to a finished product in six months time. But because I had to build up cash and doing it on my own, it took longer."

Now he's working on marketing the product.

"It's all about advertising at this point. And advertising is expensive," said Mr. Smith, who recently appeared on WJXT's (News4jax) "Local Look" segment with Karen Adams promoting the Hideaway. The product will also appear later this year on the DIY network, a cable home improvement station.

"Moving forward I have to be very creative on how it goes to market and avoid getting into a hurry at this point," he said. "I have a business plan to where, at this point, if I don't sell a single cabinet, it's financed for a

year sitting in the warehouse. If I sell cabinets, that changes everything."

To make that happen, he's approached various buyers, including Interline Brands and Costco. It could be on the shelves within the year.

"All these companies are at the reviewing stage," he said. "It wouldn't take but one or two of these guys to come on board to be successful."

Doing so is easier said than done, however, for a new product like the Hideaway. Retailers are happy to buy products that they know will sell. "If it's a new product to market, they're cautious," he says.

Mr. Smith also offers the product for sale online and will have them available at a Macclenny hair salon that rents space in his building. He has plans for additional products from his company, American Hideaway, Inc., as well.

Mr. Smith's advice for other inventors: beware of companies selling services to inventors.

Save the money and do it yourself, he recommends.

Small children at meth house...

From page 1
trespass and theft of a phone following an incident involving an estranged girlfriend in the late afternoon of February 3.

Deputy Koty Crews said Amber Reynolds, 26, hailed him at the Exxon Store on South 6th about 5:30 and said she had been accosted by Mr. Dow near her Maple St. residence.

He allegedly attempted to pull her from a vehicle being driven by Jerry Johns Jr., 25, of Macclenny, then snatched her cell phone before riding off on a bicycle.

Deputy Johnny Hodges stopped the suspect on South 6th near McIver a short time later. The pills, both anti-anxiety and pain killers, were found in Mr. Dow's pants pocket during a routine search.

Deputy Crews noted in his report that Mr. Dow is a pharmacy technician at CVS. The trespass charge is the result of an earlier order banning him from Ms. Reynolds' property.

Investigator Yarborough arrested James Ackley, 35, of Jacksonville for felony possession

of methadone pills after stopping his 1998 Ford pickup in north Macclenny the afternoon of February 4.

The traffic stop was the result of Mr. Ackley passing the officer's vehicle and two others on the right before driving through the intersection of US 90 and 5th St. about 4:45 pm.

Deputy Robert Simpkins arrested Robert Williams, 32, of Macclenny on multiple misdemeanor and felony counts after stopping his 1998 Dodge pickup on CR 229 south of Sanderson late on February 4 for having a tag light out.

A consent search of the vehicle turned up prescription pills and pill residue, marijuana and a crack pipe.

Tony Holloman, 52, of Glen was charged with felony possession of two varieties of prescription medication after Deputy Trey McCullough drove up on his 1994 Ford pickup that became stuck in a muddy ditch the evening of February 9.

The deputy was on patrol near CR 127 and Pender Raulerson Rd., and said he found four pills on Mr. Holloman during a routine search.

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Body a suicide...

From page 1
turned down a tram road near the power lines and parked in what he believed was a remote area.

Investigator Mike Hauge of the sheriff's department said Mr. Burnett likely set the 1996 Nissan ablaze with gasoline, though a final determination awaits investigations by the state fire marshal's office and the medical examiner in Gainesville.

LeAnn Miller, who lives just south of the scene on Gin Henry Lane, told Deputy Tony Norman she heard a loud explosion about 11:30, followed by the sound of a car horn in the distance.

She then saw black smoke rising from the woods behind her residence and walked toward the area to find the ve-

hicle engulfed in flames and what appeared to be a white male crawling away from it.

Deputy Norman said Mr. Burnett's body was on the ground 3-4 feet from the driver's side door.

Investigator Hauge said he was identified Monday via fingerprints from a 2010 drug possession arrest in his home state.

He apparently drove to Florida to visit his mother, arriving on February 6. She told the investigator he feared he was ill and talked about ending his life. He left her residence Sunday morning, saying he was going to buy a surf board.

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DUI near Ocean Pond

A Sanderson woman who drove her SUV into a ditch near Ocean Pond was arrested the evening of February 6 for drunk driving.

Deputy Jacob Satterwhite said he responded to a suspicious vehicle report and found April Brown, 23, seated at the wheel of the 2012 Suzuki with the transmission in drive and the radio on. The left rear wheel was suspended about two feet in the air and the front of the vehicle was mired in the embankment.

Ms. Brown, who was unsteady on her feet, said she missed the turn off CR 231 onto Lakeside Dr. just north of US 90, and admitted she was on medication to wear her off an opiate addiction.

She failed field sobriety testing and later at county jail blew a .140 on the breathalyzer, nearly twice the legal limit for intoxication.

Ms. Brown was also found to have no valid license.

In other incidents, a suspect who had recently been released from county jail on bond was re-arrested when he was subpoenaed by an auxiliary county deputy after wandering onto property off Glenview Dr. just before dawn on February 8.

Patrick McGauley, a former county canine deputy who lives on the property, told Deputy Jeremiah Combs he confronted Joshua Teston,

26, frantic and apparently under the influence of drugs, about 6:20 am after being awakened by yelling and pounding noises near a vacant rental house.

The suspect lives just south of the property off Nursery Blvd.

Mr. Teston, out on bond for trespass, disorderly intoxication and resisting arrest, was taken back to jail charged again with those offenses plus battery on a law officer and cruelty to animals. Mr. McGauley said the suspect attempted to choke Tango, a retired county police canine, during the struggle to subdue him.

• Wayne Jefferson, 31, of Glen was arrested for disorderly intoxication and loitering after he disturbed several homeowners in a neighborhood east of Macclenny the evening of February 9.

Mary Hires called police when the suspect appeared at her front door off D.E. Long Rd. just before 10 pm asking to use the phone, then asking her for cigarettes and beer.

Deputy Chad Monteau spotted him attempting to hide behind a fence off Glory Rd. shortly after, and a neighbor said he had been alerted by an elderly neighbor after the suspect pounded on his front door.

Several batteries on relatives

County deputies made a number of arrests the past week for alleged battery and assault on a variety of relatives, including a mother, a sister and an aunt.

Deputy Thomas Dyal arrested Keith Willis, 47, for attacking his sister Patricia Gunter, 53, and her boyfriend James Cotney, 52, both of Panama City at a residence off Water Oak Lane in the north county late on February 5.

Ms. Gunter said she and Mr. Cotney went to the travel trailer where his brother had been living because they heard he was depressed. He allegedly became angry when the sister declined to spend the night, striking her several times with his fist.

When Mr. Cotney intervened, the accused knocked him to the ground and repeatedly kicked him. He was treated for unknown injuries at Fraser Hospital.

Deputy Dyal said Mr. Willis was unsteady on his feet and,

like the other two, bloodied from the encounter. The three had been drinking.

He was booked at county jail for two counts of battery.

• Brian Rogers, 18, was arrested the evening of February 6 for making repeated threats against his mother Melanie Rogers, 37, reportedly because she would not take him from their residence on Arnold Rhoden Rd. to purchase cigarettes.

Deputy Chris Walker responded to the disturbance call and said the son continued to interrupt, cursing and threatening his mother while he was questioning Ms. Rogers, while ignoring repeated requests that he calm himself.

The mother said the accused became angry about 10 pm and also threw property around their residence.

• Deputy Michael Clark filed a complaint for domestic violence against Christopher Henderson, 22, for an alleged attack on longtime girlfriend

Stove, hoist are gone from building

A cast iron stove and chain hoist were taken from a storage building on US 90 east of Macclenny between February 4-7 when someone entered through a front window.

Owner Scott Mandel called police when he noticed the window ajar and told Deputy Johnny Hodges other property may have been taken as well since the interior was ransacked. The stove and hoist were valued at \$600.

Two tenants who live nearby said they saw a white four-door sedan parked on the roadside in the late afternoon of February 4 and assumed it had broken down.

In other thefts:

- Judith Staggs of Macclenny reported her purse and contents taken from her 2008 Mazda at City Park on February 9. It was in the parking lot from 11:30 am-12:30 pm.
- The purse contained \$175 cash and six credit cards plus various identification.
- Bruce Steiger of Macclenny reported a game camera valued at \$100 was taken from a hunting lease off Noah Raulerson Rd. in the north county between the afternoons of February 8-9.
- An inmate at county jail was charged with felony criminal mischief for destroying the head of a fire sprinkler in his cell the afternoon of February 6.

A surveillance video depicts inmate Jermel Perineau, 27, of Jacksonville reaching to the ceiling and pulling off the head, resulting in a water leak.

He told a jail officer he was an ICE inmate and the county can't do anything about it.

Orders violation fines

The Baker County Code Enforcement Board voted the evening of February 10 to impose immediate fines on either the owner of record or the bank foreclosing on a property off SR 121 South.

The property once owned by Larry Shepherd and now being managed by Texas-based firm for Bank of America was found last month to be in non-compliance due to excess refuse and lack of mobile home skirting.

Mr. Shepherd failed to respond to both mailed and posted notices of the violation and CEB meetings, and recently the county's Building and Zoning Department was contacted by Safeguard Properties of Richardson, TX inquiring about the nature of the violations.

Building official Bobby Griffin told the board this week he again visited the property and there was no sign the violations were being addressed.

On a motion by member Gerald Herradon, the board voted to assess an initial \$75 beginning the next day, and a \$15 daily fine for the maximum of 180 days or until the violations are cleared and the county notified by the property manager.

FDOT projects add to local construction zones

Baker County motorists should be aware of construction zones that have arisen in the area in recent weeks, in addition to ongoing projects like the nearly-complete Green's Creek bridge on CR 229 south of Sanderson.

The Florida Department of Transportation's district office in Lake City advises that the detour on CRs 124 and 129 continues as the flood-damaged Cedar Creek bridge on CR 127 is replaced.

Other caution zones:

- South 5th St. between Walmart and Lowder and a small portion of Lowder to Finley Dr. for construction of a sidewalk.
- Interstate 10 from SR 121 (South 6th) to a mile east of SR 228 to install high-mast lighting and extend the median guardrail (week-days only).

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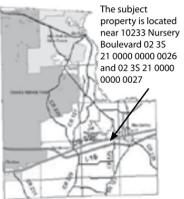
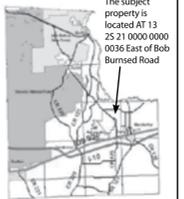
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the proposed ordinances, whose title hereinafter appears, will be presented in a public hearing to the Baker County Board of County Commissioners for possible adoption on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Baker County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public in the Commissioner's office, address stated above. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance which is titled as follows:

ORDINANCE 2014- AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 91-1, AS AMENDED, REGARDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND, BEING APPROXIMATELY 5 ACRES IN SIZE, RELATING TO SMALL SCALE DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY MORRIS AND DEBRA FOSTER; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM AGRICULTURAL B LAND USE TO RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW DENSITY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Sanderson man jailed for forging truck lien release

A Sanderson man faces multiple felony counts for allegedly forging a lien satisfaction to obtain the title of a vehicle that he later sold to a third party.

William Crawford, 43, was arrested on February 5 following an interview with sheriff's investigator Chris Volz after the two arranged to meet in Glen St. Mary.

Deputy Jeremiah Combs answered the initial complaint by Dominick Rielli, an employee at Burkins Chevrolet in Macclenny that financed the 2004 Nissan pickup. He presented a copy of the forged document and said Mr. Crawford still owed the dealership \$8700.

A title was given to Mr. Crawford by the Department of Motor Vehicles in November, 2013 after he allegedly obtained the bogus release of lien that has since been reinstated.

The accused told the investigator he sold the truck to a "Mexican" in the Orlando area who was supposed to keep up the payments. He claimed not to know a Rajuian Alkon listed on the title as a power of attorney, and asserted that person likely committed the fraud.

Mr. Crawford was booked for forgery of a title lien, possession of a counterfeit bill of sale, forgery and fraudulent impersonation.

In another forgery case, the grandson of a Macclenny couple was arrested on February 6 and charged with theft of two checks and a cell phone.

Glenn Wright, 28, allegedly took one check from his grandmother Patricia Clement and tried to cash it for \$500 at Wells Fargo. Later, his grandfather told Deputy Daryl Mobley that Mr. Wright took one from him also and attempted to cash it for \$350 at Community First Bank.

Both banks notified the victims because of a mismatch of signatures.

When Mr. Wright was arrested at the Macclenny Burger King, he had a needle and spoon on his person. He is also accused of taking the phone from Mr. Clement and of assault for threatening his grandmother if she did not give him money.

The couple told Deputy Mobley their grandson abuses drugs.

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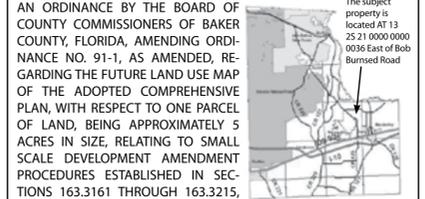
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ORDINANCE 2014- AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, REZONING 10 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MORRIS AND DEBRA FOSTER FROM AG 7.5 TO RESIDENTIAL CONVENTIONAL OR MOBILE HOME 1 DWELLING UNIT PER 2.5 ACRES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Persons interested in commenting on the proposed changes may appear and shall be given an opportunity to speak at the public hearing or may send written comments to: Baker County Planning Department, 360 E Shuey Avenue, Macclenny, Florida, 32063. Copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection at the Baker County Planning Department. For additional information, please call (9204) 259-3354.

NOTE: Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any member of the public desires to appeal any decision made at this public hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for that purpose may need to ensure that he/she transcribe a verbatim record of the proceedings, which record would include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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

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ORDINANCE 2014- AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, REZONING 10 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MORRIS AND DEBRA FOSTER FROM AG 7.5 TO RESIDENTIAL CONVENTIONAL 1/2 UNIT PER ACRE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at

Zoning vote was invalid

From page 1

request 3-0, however, and after the meeting Mr. Ayoub said he was prepared to fight the city in court. However, city officials told him any appeal would have to go first to the city commission.

That information also was later deemed incorrect.

City Attorney Frank Maloney informed city commissioners that prior to the ordinance changes in 1999, zoning appeals were taken to the city commission. But in addition to the new quorum requirements, the appeals process was changed to require disgruntled applicants to go directly to circuit court for relief.

"There is no appeal to this board," Mr. Maloney said.

"Is there nothing we can do about it?" Mayor Gary Dopson asked.

"Pass a new ordinance," the attorney replied.

"Well, we need to look at doing it," the mayor said, adding it would be foolish to face court and lawyer fees to fight appeals in court every time someone objects to a decision of the zoning board. "I think it (appeals) should come to this board first."

Although he has been on the city commission for about 25 years, Mayor Dopson said he "was not aware it (zoning appeals) went straight to the legal system."

Even if the city commission heard appeals, however, the mayor said the board "very likely" would not overrule its unpaid, volunteer zoning adjustment panels.

Rather than change the appeal process right away, however, City Manager Phil Rhoden said he has asked the city attorney to begin attending Zoning Adjustment Board meetings to offer legal guidance and advice and make sure all decisions are legally defensible.

Mr. Yarborough, who joined the city hall staff 11 years ago, said he discovered the oversight after the February 3 zoning adjustment board meeting when he began researching the appeals process. That's when he learned that the procedures were revised 15 years ago.

Most of the board's decisions have been favorable

to applicants over the years and those who were denied never raised a fuss, Mr. Yarborough said, adding, "This is the first time anybody wants to appeal."

Until the past few months, zoning board meetings were almost always attended by all five members, Mr. Yarborough said. But two members recently resigned - Dennis Collins and Alex Robinson - leaving only three remaining until this week.

Commissioners appointed a fourth member at the February 11 meeting, Pam Lyons, a retired registered nurse, to serve a three-year term on the zoning panel, which hears requests for zoning changes and special exceptions.

Zoning Coordinator Mike Walker told commissioners he is seeking a volunteer to fill the fifth seat on the panel and hoped to find a willing citizen soon. But at least now, he said, the zoning board will have a quorum.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ayoub said he had been contacted by the city to tell him what had happened and that a new hearing will have to be conducted on his application. He said he hopes for a different outcome the second time around, but if not he has a lawyer waiting to take it to a higher authority if necessary.

In other business this week city commissioners:

- Approved a \$1.5 million revenue bond issue to finance construction of the long-awaited new main fire station at its present location directly across US 90 from city hall. The bonds are to be paid off with state revenue sharing funds.
- "We're pursuing this," Mayor Dopson said of the bond issue. "If we realize that we cannot afford it we'll back out of it."
- City officials said state revenue funds total about \$160,000 a year and that the annual debt obligation on the bonds would be roughly \$80,000 a year.
- Approved the condemnation of an old, unoccupied mobile home on a lot at 793 Macclenny Ave. just west of Lowder Street. The structure, owned by Crews Rental Inc., is "in terrible shape and has never hooked up to city utilities," Mr. Walker said.
- "It was grandfathered in years ago and really shouldn't even be there," he said. "We don't want them there in the future."

Well, we need to look at doing it. I think it (appeals) should come to this board first.

-Mayor Gary Dopson

Orange Park motorist had gun, drugs, \$4364

A county deputy chased an Orange Park man several blocks in south Macclenny the evening of February 5 before stopping him in a parking lot and arresting him on multiple charges, including possession of marijuana and felony driving on a license with six suspensions.

Deputy Daryl Mobley said he first spotted the 1999 Honda being driven by Anthony Merrett, 48, on 5th St. and noted it had a faulty tag light. The vehicle drove through the intersection of Lowder and 6th St., then in and out of two parking lots before stopping.

A subsequent vehicle search turned up an unloaded .357 magnum pistol on the floorboard, the marijuana in a console and a cloth bag with cash behind the passenger seat. Mr. Merrett also had three knives on his person and two smoking pipes found in his boot while he was being booked at county jail.

The cash in the bag and his wallet amounted to \$4364, and multiple open and unopened beer and whiskey bottles were also found in the vehicle.

Other than the charges noted above, Mr. Merrett was arrested for attempting to bring contraband into the jail and fleeing the officer.

In other arrests, Theron Walker Jr., 38, of the Black-bottom section of southeast Baker County was charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession and disorderly intoxication following a verbal confrontation with his estranged wife in a downtown Macclenny parking lot early on February 9.

Deputy Robert Simpkins said he was on patrol about 1:35 am when he saw Mr. Walker yelling at a female identified as Tiffany Smith, 21, while she was seated in a vehicle in the parking lot at US 90 and 5th St.

The marijuana was found in the suspect's sock during a routine search prior to being taken to jail.

- A criminal citation was issued late on February 7 to Zackary Smallwood III, 29, of Macclenny after Deputy Simpkins stopped the 2010 Toyota he was driving on South 5th St. in Macclenny.
- The officer was responding to a report that the Toyota was swerving in and out of its travel lane on westbound I-10 about 10:25 pm. He got behind the vehicle shortly after it exited the interstate, and noted it crossed both the shoulder and center lines several times.
- Justin Dinkins, 25, of Green Cove Springs was arrested the afternoon of February 3 after off-duty Deputy Clements Leo saw him leave his 1991 Toyota pickup, then stagger and nearly fall on a sidewalk outside Vystar Credit Union on South 6th.
- He was charged with driving on a license with five suspensions.

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Convicted felon had pistol

A Glen St. Mary man was arrested late on February 9 in possession of a pistol that he admitted he used to shoot at a deer earlier on CR 250A near Olustee in the Osceola National Forest.

Mark Collingwood, 29, was driving a vehicle stopped near I-10 and US 90 shortly after 10 pm by Officer Christopher Cason of the US Forest Service following a report of shots fired that evening. The officer spotted a holster on the floorboard and Mr. Collingwood produced a .45-caliber pistol from under his seat.

He is a convicted felon and possessing a gun is another felony.

The suspect admitted during an interview with Deputy Koty Crews that he spotted the deer by the roadside and fired 4-5 shots at it. He then searched the area and found no sign the deer had been hit.

Mr. Collingwood said he was en route to pick up Philip Pendleton, 26, of Sanderson, who was with him when stopped by Officer Cason but not charged.

In another incident, criminal complaints were filed the afternoon of February 5 against a Glen man for allegedly striking his young niece with a switch, and against the man's wife for allegedly striking him in the head.

Deputy Earl Lord said he was called to the residence of Gina Hodges, 33, on Gallup Lane about 3 pm and she accused Thomas Hodges, 39,

of accosting the 2-year-old child. He insisted he was playing with the girl, then accused Mrs. Hodges of hitting him during a subsequent argument.

The deputy said both the girl and husband had red marks indicative of being struck.

- A 52-year-old Macclenny man contacted police on February 6 when he realized his name and Social Security number were used to open a Sprint account in the Chicago area back in November.
- The company had informed him he owed \$1404.
- Jesse Griffis, 18, of Macclenny was in county jail for burglary and theft when served with warrants from Duval County for armed burglary and burglary.
- Ricky Kendry, 30, of Macclenny was in jail on February 6 when served with a Columbia County warrant for violating probation for petty theft.

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To focus on health disparities Clinton group chooses Baker, three other counties

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The Clinton Foundation has selected five counties in North-east Florida, including Baker County, as one of four "community transformation sites" nationwide involved with the foundation's latest project, the Clinton Health Matters Initiative.

The initiative is the latest effort to surface targeting the region because of its often poor health outcomes and the health disparities here, whether between races, counties or even among different zip codes within the same county.

It's the only one, however, financially backed by a former president's philanthropic foundation. Ashley Smith-Juarez, the regional director for the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, said the five-to-seven-year project aims to reduce the prevalence of certain chronic but preventable health conditions like diabetes, heart disease and lung disease; narrow health disparity gaps and reduce healthcare costs overall by promoting wellness and prevention programs.

"We absolutely want people to have high-quality care and access to care when they need it, but if there are things we can do through environmental changes or personal changes, those are things we want to help facilitate," she told the group gathered at last Monday's Healthy Baker meeting, where various members of public and private health-related organizations operating in Baker County regularly gather.

The initiative began last summer and remains in the planning phase. Ms. Smith-Juarez said a brain-storming meeting last December with some 175 community stakeholders, including Baker County Health Department director Kerry Dunlavey and Terrenia Stair, the department's administration services director, helped identify "action steps" that will make up the initiative's blueprint or strategic plan for Northeast Florida.

Those steps should be finalized for release this April. Nationally, there's work ongoing as well, including a "code-athon" series in partnership with tech companies like Tumblr and Jawbone. In the series, computer programmers

are developing health promotion technologies, namely mobile applications that address changes to the region's health outcomes in the long term. There are three other "community transformation sites" involved with the initiative. There's one in southern California, another in central Arkansas around Little Rock and a third in the area surrounding Houston.

Strategies found to be effective in one place could be effective in another benefit populations elsewhere by scaling them up or down, or by tweaking them to address local conditions, said Ms. Smith-Juarez.

"We can look at health outcomes, but what's leading to those outcomes may be very different for different people in

different places," she said. For instance, when a community in Chattanooga, Tenn. lost its only source of fresh fruit and vegetables after the local Food Lion store shuttered, it took just six months for the YMCA along with local and national food charities to launch a mobile market to serve the community.

"They talked with residents to find out what they wanted to buy and a trailer arrives at a predetermined location twice a week," said Ms. Smith-Juarez. "They nearly eliminated the food gap."

"You can bring ideas from all over the United States," added Ms. Dunlavey. In other health-related news from the Healthy Baker meeting:

• With the Florida Department of Health celebrating its 125th year, the county department on West Lowder Street will host activities on February 20 beginning with a 10 am viewing of an event in Tallahassee marking the occasion. There will also be a story board on the local department's history, beginning with the Yellow Fever outbreak in the late 1800s.

• Healthy Baker's board of directors appointed Lori Hodges, a data collector with the National Children's Study, to the governing panel. She replaces Sue Combs.

• Attendees applauded CVS for the company's decision to pull tobacco products from its stores.

"That is fabulous," said Ms. Dunlavey. "It will cost them millions but it's a victory for public health."

Pam Jerald, the department's tobacco cessation coordinator, said the high school's Students Working Against Tobacco club, or SWAT, are planning a letter writing campaign to thank the company.

The health department will also host a free, one-day tobacco quitting class from 10 am to noon on March 8. Nicotine supplements will be available to participants at no charge.

• Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is seeking volunteers. Volunteers perform clerical work, visit with patients, read to them or run errands for caregivers. For more information, please visit www.communityhospice.com.



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com
Ashley Smith-Juarez present at Monday's Healthy Baker meeting.

Photo by Joel Addington

We absolutely want people to have high-quality care and access to care when they need it, but if there are things we can do through environmental changes or personal changes, those are things we want to help facilitate.

-Regional Director Ashley Smith-Juarez
Clinton Health Matters Initiative

Auditions set for park in Glen

A newly forming local theater group is calling for auditions for its inaugural performance of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* scheduled for June.

Auditions will run from 3-6 pm on February 21 and 2-5 pm on February 23 at Celebration Park in Glen St. Mary.

Organizer T.J. Washburn of Glen is calling the new group the Masterless Men and said auditions are open to all.

He can be reached at 904-252-5475.

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Photo courtesy of Bob Gerard
Recent Broadway in Baker rehearsals.

'Broadway' - this time with rhythm & blues

BY BOB GERARD
PRESSTAFF

The BCHS drama department and Baker County Community Theatre present *Broadway in Baker: Country, Rhythm and Blues* this weekend and next in the BCHS auditorium. This year's edition of the popular Broadway in Baker production is one of the most complex in the seven-year history of the event.

The first half of the production is country music, but unlike other years, the singers perform with a live band. Songs like *Don't Be Cruel, Country Roads, He Stopped Loving Her Today, Stand By Your Man, Need You Now, and Your Cheatin' Heart* will have you wanting to sing along.

The focus shifts to rhythm and blues after intermission with big songs and dance numbers and intimate ballads. Songs include *Heat Wave, Get Ready, Where Did Our Love Go, Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay, Chain of Fools, Rocking Robin* and many more.

The show runs Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm, this weekend and next. Reserved tickets in the first 4 rows are \$10 with general admission on sale at the door for \$5. Call 259-6286 to make your reservations.

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River Region's (l-r) officials Crystal Brown, Tiffany Green and Dietangel Heard at last week's community review panel.

Foster home shortage Local number drops from six to one

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Today there are nearly two dozen children from Baker County in state licensed foster homes, but there's only one such home here.

That revelation came from Paula Vann of Partnership for Strong Families at a "community review panel" hosted by River Region Human Services of Jacksonville last week.

Both organizations are nonprofits contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families, but Partnership for Strong Families of Gainesville manages the foster care system in 13 North Florida counties. River Region, meanwhile, provides substance abuse and mental health services from offices in Macclenny.

Ms. Vann, the partnership's recruitment specialist, was among about a dozen people representing various local organizations invited by River Region to attend the February 5 meeting at the Ag Center.

The goal of the meeting, River Region officials said, was to exchange information with other groups who work with similar populations, usually low-income residents struggling with drug addiction, mental health disorders or both. Doing so can help identify gaps in services or improve coordination between organizations, they said.

River Region currently has about 160 clients in Baker County.

Ms. Vann's comments, which came at the end of the meeting following a presentation from area domestic abuse shelter Hubbard House, were met with surprise by other attendees.

"That's disturbing," said River Region's Linda Gibson.

Part of the problem may be the lengthy approval process.

Ms. Vann said it can take up to six months for the state to certify a new foster family, a process that includes classes and background checks. Plus, she said, the public image of Florida's foster care system is often a bleak one.

It's usually the stories of abuse within the system that get the most attention, but Partnership for Strong Families community relations director Jenn Petion says across the agency's 13 counties a shortage has been created because children are being adopted out of the system.

Here however, that's only half the problem.

Since the partnership took over child welfare services in the county in 2010, the number of licensed foster homes has dropped from six to one, partly because of higher standards for foster families put in place by the partnership.

In the last three years or so, Ms. Petion said three of the six homes were closed for that reason.



Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com
Susan Woodford (right) of the Nassau Alcohol Crime Drug Abatement Coalition was among the meeting's attendees.

"We raised the bar for what we expect out of a licensed care giver," she said. "We expect them to be willing to work with the birth family, to have a smoother transition for the child. They are the intermediaries in some ways between the family and the formal [foster care] system."

Licensed foster homes have to abide by stringent rules, like testing for radon or agreeing to health department inspections.

"Not all the homes [in Baker County] were ready to take on that challenge," said Ms. Petion.

A fourth foster family moved out of the county and yet another dropped out of the program voluntarily after children were adopted, she said, leaving the last licensed foster family of the six the partnership inherited from its predecessor, Baker & Clay Kids Net, Inc. now Kids First of Florida, Inc.

The partnership wants to license five more foster homes here, including two as specialty care homes for children with medical or behavior problems.

"Any more would be wonderful but five is really our goal," said Ms. Petion.

She said the partnership is currently working with 51 Baker County children and their parents, 37 of whom are under full-time case management and supervision and 14 others who receive some support but not "full blown case management oversight."

There are seven local children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. In the majority of those cases, the kids were placed with relatives, which are preferred over foster homes, though the partnership does not license them as foster homes.

"If we can't [place children with family] then licensed care is the last resort," said Ms. Petion.

There are seven local children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. In the majority of those cases, the kids were placed with relatives, which are preferred over foster homes, though the partnership does not license them as foster homes.

Partnership for Strong Families recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and rededicated its efforts to supporting foster care in its outlying counties like Baker. Boosting training and child care assistance for foster families in those areas and en-

gaging those communities is the aim, the partnership's Ms. Vann said.

This time of year, near the holidays, is when the need for foster care is greatest, she said.

To learn more about becoming a licensed foster family, please visit www.partnerfamily.org

Though the meeting was the first of what will be quarterly community review panels, River Region president Tiffany Green was pleased with the participation and said she hopes more residents will take part in the future.

Among the other groups represented at the meeting, the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency is releasing applications for its summer Data Busters program, which gives low-income teens an opportunity to work in clerical jobs, learn basic computer skills and win prizes at the end of the program.

4-H is staging STEM program

Why is STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and public speaking important? As an adult, you know in our ever-changing society that science and communication have become a driving force towards our youth's successful future. The best time to introduce youth to these concepts is now, while they are young. This is the objective of the 4-H STEM Fair Program.

The program is structured to be a part of everyday classroom/club activities. In addition, the excitement of a competition is added. A real challenge occurs when children prepare to express their knowledge in front of an audience. Some students overcome their initial fear of public speaking more easily than others. The emphasis of the program is on the growth of every student participant.

It is important for all young students to have an opportunity to take pride in the expression of their scientific ideas. The program is designed to give youth experience in the preparation and delivery of a scientific idea. It is designed for youth ages 8-18 (3rd grade -12th grade).

The Baker County STEM Fair will be February 28 at 9:30 am at the Baker County Extension Office auditorium (Ag Center). For more information about STEM or Baker County 4-H, please contact Shaina Bennett, Baker County 4-H Agent at 904-259-3520 or email sbennett@ufl.edu.



150th anniversary of Olustee Battle

The annual Battle of Olustee reenactment and related activities will take place the weekend of February 14-16 in Olustee.

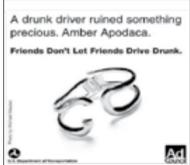
Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, unless they're preschool age or below. This year's event marks the 150th anniversary of the battle and the 38th year of the reenactment.

The demonstration battle is Saturday, February 15 at 3:30 pm. The reenactment battle is Sunday at 1:30 pm. There will be other activities daily from 8 am to 4 pm.

For more information about the reenactment, please

e-mail olusteesco@yahoo.com, or visit www.battleofolustee.org.

The event's Citizen Support Organization, or CSO, is also looking for descendants of soldiers who fought in the original battle in 1864. They may contact the CSO at the e-mail address above or by calling Mitzi Nelson at 259-3415.



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PUBLIC HEARING
Pursuant to an application submitted by Verizon Wireless, as agent for Destiny People Worship Church, Inc. to be granted a Special Use to locate a communication tower on property located at the north east corner of Tax Parcel No. 19.35.22.0005 0000 0010 on the east side of State Road 121 just south of the Northeast Florida State Hospital in Baker County, FL. The Baker County Board of Commissioners will consider the request at a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm, in the County Administration Building, 55 North Third St., Macclenny, FL. All interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the Special Use request. The request is to be granted a Special Use in accordance to the Baker County Land Development Regulations per Baker County Land Development Regulations Section 3.06.24 Special Use Permit Required. Written comments for or against the Special Use may be sent to Baker County Planning Department, 360 E. Shuey Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. Faxed comments may be sent to (904)259-5057. Copies of the Special Use may be inspected by any member of the public in the Planning Department, address stated above. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Administration Department at (904) 259-5123 at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the proposed ordinances, whose title hereinafter appears, will be presented in a public hearing to the Baker County Land Planning Agency for review on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Baker County Administration Building, 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, Florida. Copies of said ordinances may be inspected by any member of the public in the Commissioner's office address stated above. On the above mentioned date, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinances which are titled as follows:

ORDINANCE 2014- AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 91-1, AS AMENDED, REGARDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND, BEING APPROXIMATELY 10 ACRES IN SIZE, RELATING TO SMALL SCALE DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM AGRICULTURAL B LAND USE TO INSTITUTIONAL; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2014- AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, REZONING 10 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH FROM AG B TO INSTITUTIONAL; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Persons interested in commenting on the proposed changes may appear and shall be given an opportunity to speak at the public hearing or may send written comments to: Baker County Planning Department, 360 E Shuey Street, Macclenny, Florida, 32063. Copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection at the Baker County Planning Department. For additional information, please call (904) 259-3354.

NOTE: Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any member of the public desires to appeal any decision made at this public hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for that purpose may need to ensure that he/she transcribe a verbatim record of the proceedings, which record would include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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

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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

Jason Carter, 39, accident victim

Jason C. Carter, 39, of Macclenny died Saturday, February 8, 2014. Mr. Carter was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose #2412 of Macclenny and Iron Worker's Union #597 of Jacksonville. He enjoyed fishing and riding in the woods. He also loved spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Alisa Carter; sons Dakota Carter, Adam Carter and Jesse Carter, all of Macclenny; mother Alice Hires of Macclenny; brothers Robert Carter Jr. of Georgia, Ryan Carter and Tyler Hires, both of Macclenny; sisters Shanna Rhoden and Aubree Hires, both of Macclenny, and Lori Whitfield of Folkston, GA; grandchild Brantley Carter of Starke; many friends and relatives.

Mr. Carter was preceded in death by his father Robert W. Carter Sr.; maternal grandparents M.N. and June Kraus; paternal grandparents Charlie and Doris Carter; brother Adam Carter and sister Tahra Carter.

A celebration of his life will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, February 15 at 5739 Irwin Street, Macclenny. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Kodi Hanna of Middleburg dies on Feb. 4

Kodi Thomas Hanna, 17, of Middleburg passed away on Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

Kodi was a sophomore at Middleburg High School where he participated on the cross country and track teams.

He was active in the youth program at Celebration Orange Park and he enjoyed swimming, MMA training, football and video games. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his parents Frank and Lisa Hanna; brothers Dylan Hanna, Frank "Lil Frank" Hanna IV and Chandler Padgett; grandparents Kent and Supornpud Groth of Jacksonville, Robert and Debbie Padgett of Middleburg, Shirley Hart and Cheryl Hart, both of Macclenny. He was preceded in death by his "Papa" Daniel Hart.

A celebration of his life was held at 7 pm, Friday, February 7, 2014 at Souls Harbor Church in Glen St. Mary with Minister Justin Landry officiating. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Frank Conner, 77, of St. George

Frank Lee Conner, 77, of St. George, died on Sunday, February 9 at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside in Jacksonville following a long illness. Mr. Conner was born in St. George and resided there and in Bryceville all his life. He was employed as a concrete driver for Florida Rock Industries in Jacksonville for over 25 years until his retirement in 1987. He attended New Life Baptist Church in St. George and loved bluegrass music, working on his black 1974 Ford pick-up truck and fishing.

He was preceded in death by parents Dawson and Ethel Crews Conner and his wife Janie Maureen Conner. He is survived by children Vickie (Ace) Simpkins and Brenda (Jimmy) Harris, both of Hilliard, and Ricky Conner and Lisa (Kenny) Pearce, both of Bryceville; sisters Barbara Hicks of Hilliard, Bertha Taylor of Jacksonville and Martha Tipton of Macclenny; grandchildren Cregg Simpkins, Robert Simpkins, Mat (Megan) Pearce, Somer (Jon) Mayner, Megabby Harris, Christy Walls, Bradley (Kayla) Higginbotham, Brittany (Stephen) Nettles and Ricky Lee Conner Jr.; 15 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be conducted at 11 am on Thursday, February 13 at his church with Pastor James Conner officiating. Interment will be in Emmus Cemetery in St. George. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Barbara Crowser, 86, of Macclenny

Barbara Rae Ness Crowser, 86, of Macclenny died on February 7, 2014 at Acosta-Rua Center for Caring with family by her side. She was born in Maple Bay, Minnesota on September 17, 1927 to the late Ed A. Ness and Gea Haugen Ness. Barbara was raised in Maple Bay and graduated from Fertile High School. Shortly after high school Barbara attended the Minnesota Business College and married the love of her life, Gilbert "Gil" Lamoine Crowser.

Mrs. Crowser loved her family and enjoyed being a homemaker and raising her four children. As a military wife she traveled the United States caring for her family. In 1972 she moved to Baker County where she became an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Macclenny. She enjoyed helping others and volunteering. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the Samaritan House and her church for many years. For a few years she worked for W. Frank Wells Nursing Home as its activities director and was known for her pie parties and cookies. She also enjoyed painting, sewing and cooking.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 62 years, Gilbert "Gil" Lamoine Crowser; sisters Ann Johnson, Ester Smith, Leah Ness, Evelyn Ennis, Valborg Barnes and Dorothy Panzer; brothers Reuben and Philip Ness.

She is survived by her loving children Deborah (Bob) Slocum of Macclenny, FL, Kari (Tony) Clayton of Amarillo, TX, Catherine (Franklin) Griffis of Glen St. Mary and Christopher Crowser of Macclenny; sisters Adelaine Rasmus, Betty Christianson, and Patricia Brestnup; grandchildren Catherine Slocum, Lauren (Jonathan) Gaskins, Mitch (Jessica) Slocum, Traci Clayton, Caitlin Griffis and Kallie Clayton; great-granddaughter, McKinley Jade Gaskins and one on the way.

The funeral service was held on Monday, February 10 at 2 pm at her church with pastors Tom Pope and Franklin Griffis officiating. Interment will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery at a later date. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

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For more information or to find out how to contact us, visit our website at www.christianfellowshiptemple.com

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CFT SERVICE TIMES:

Wednesday, February 12th 6:00-6:45 Family Dinner 7:00 Adult Worship Services 7:00 Youth Worship Services	Sunday, February 16th 10:00 Sunday School (All Ages) 11:00 Morning Worship Service 11:00 Children's Church 6:00 Evening Worship
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connect. grow. serve.

Funeral later for Ms. Hardenbrook

Deloris Hardenbrook, 62, of Macclenny died on Saturday, February 1, 2014. Originally from Pennsylvania, Ms. Hardenbrook was an 18-year Baker County resident. She enjoyed watching television, listening to music and spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her boyfriend of 13 years, Roger Siemering; daughter Jeanette Hoey of Macclenny; brother Allen Francis of Pennsylvania; sisters Anna May Walls and Nancy Francis, both of Pennsylvania; four grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Forbes Funeral Home of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

Funeral Monday for Mrs. Harris

Anabelle Harris, 88, of Jacksonville died at the home of her daughter Denise on February 7, 2014. She was born in Glen St. Mary on April 17, 1925 to the late Ralph Silver and Julia Hilliard. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Lonnie Harris.

Mrs. Harris moved to Maxville from Jacksonville in 1941 and was a member of First Baptist Church of Maxville. She enjoyed reading the Bible, watching game shows, playing solitaire on the computer and word searches.

She is survived by children Bob (Barbara) Harris of Texas, Rick Harris of Mayo, FL, Judy (Grady) Ellis of Macclenny, Daniel (Sue) Harris of Clay Hill, FL, Phyllis (Stan) White of DeFuniak Springs, FL, Tim Harris of Folkston, GA and Denise Williams of Maxville; 18 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Monday, February 10 at 2 pm at her church with Pastor Freddie Griffis officiating. Interment followed at Long Branch Cemetery. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.

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Submit births, weddings & 50th+ anniversaries via email to editor@bakercountypress.com or at 104 S. 5th St., Macclenny

4 week deadline on all submissions.

Happy Valentine's Day, Daddy!
In Loving Memory of my Daddy
Garrett Scott Harris 5-25-86 ~ 02-14-07

I miss and love you and wish you could come and play with me.
Love,
Your Daughter,
Cabby Shae Harris

Saint Peter's in the Glen
ANGLICAN CHURCH

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
7:00 pm Wednesday Services

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Glen St. Mary, Florida

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
CR 127 N. of Sanderson

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Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm

Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford

Community Full Gospel Church
12664 Mud Lake Rd.

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:30 pm

Pastor Tommy Richardson || 904-275-2949

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Intersection of CR 125 & 250 in Taylor • 259-8353

Sunday school ~ 10:00 am
Sunday service ~ 11:00 am
Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm
Family style dinner - 1st Sunday of the month following service

Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

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Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr.

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. I a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com •• 259-4529

Funeral Saturday for Mrs. Perkins

Sonjia McCray Perkins of Sanderson died on February 6, 2014. She was born February 2, 1945 in Macclenny to Tommy and Hilda McCray, who preceded her in death. Sonjia was educated in Baker County and attended Faith Bible Church in Sanderson. Fishing was one of her many hobbies.

Mrs. Perkins is survived by her husband of over 40 years, Lester Perkins Sr.; sons Steve McCray Sr. (Laura), Reginald McCray, Lester Perkins Jr., Spencer Perkins; daughter Shalena Williamson (James); grandchildren Steve McCray Jr., Altavis Williams, Germetrica Church, Jamille Tisdale, Gabriel Williams, Reginald McCray Jr., Trannen McCray; three great-grandchildren and adopted granddaughter Hildary Perry.

The funeral service will be at noon on Saturday, February 15 at her church on 90 West in Sanderson with Pastor Videll Williams officiating. The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm on Friday, February 14 at the church. Combs Funeral Home of Lake City is in charge of arrangements.



Sonjia Perkins



Photo courtesy of BCHD

'Go Red' to fight heart disease at BCHD...

These employees of the Baker County Health Department donned the color red on February 7 to observe Wear Red Day to bring attention to the fact that heart disease is the number one killer of women. The ladies also brought ingredients for a healthy lunch menu that day. Pictured above in front of a display in the conference room that day are: (front, l-r) Vicky Carrigg, Terrenia Staler, Tommie Sue Davis, (standing) Pam Jerald, Alicia Hodges, Haley Rhoden, Reba Jackson and Tina Godwin.

Funeral held for Mr. Standefer

Ronald Alfred "Ronny" Standefer, 57, of Jacksonville died Sunday, February 9, at Baptist Medical Center-Beaches following a short illness. He had resided in Duval County all of his life. Ronny was disabled but loved to travel with his sister and watch football. He was preceded in death by parents Arben Gerald and Doretha Durrance Standefer.

He is survived by sister Janet G. Standefer, nephew Michael G. Standefer, step-mother Vonceil Harvey, all of Jacksonville; numerous friends and relatives from out of state.

The funeral service was held at 10 am on Wednesday, February 12, in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with Rev. Jim Cox, associate pastor of the Taylor Church officiating. Interment was in South Prong Cemetery, Sanderson.



Ronald Standefer

Kathryn Wiggins dies at age 92

Kathryn Eloise Wiggins, 92, of Macclenny died on February 6, 2014. She was born in Valdosta, Georgia on November 14, 1921 to the late Robert Edwin and Hesta Lena Roberts Lee. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Sterling Aubrey Wiggins; daughter Deborah Jo Norman; brothers William Davis Lee and Robert Edwin Lee Jr. Kathryn moved to Macclenny from Jacksonville in 1987 and was a member of Glen St. Mary Baptist Church. She enjoyed reading and sewing and was also a member of the Daughters of the Nile Khem Temple #85 of Jacksonville. Mrs. Wiggins worked for JC Penney for 18 years as a secretary.

Mrs. Wiggins is survived by daughter Brenda Joyce (Edward) Harvey of Macclenny; son-in-law Todd Norman of Macclenny; granddaughter Ashton Christine Norman.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 11 at 1 pm at her church with Pastor Tim Patterson and Dr. Loy Reed officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny was in charge of arrangements.



Kathryn Wiggins

In loving memory of **Laura Davis**
2/9/1960-2/10/2010
In Our Hearts

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that, too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. Now all we have are memories, and a picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake with which we will never part. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our heart.

In loving memory of **Laura Davis**
2/9/1960-2/10/2010
Happy Birthday

I wish you were here today, even for a little while, so I could say "Happy Birthday, Mom" and see your beautiful smile. The only gift today will be the gifts you left behind - the laughter, joy, happiness, precious memories - the best kind. Today I'll do my best to try and find a happy place. Struggling to hide my heavy heart and the tears on my face. I'll sit quietly and look at your pictures, thinking of you with love and hoping you are doing okay in Heaven up above. May the angels hold you close and sing a happy song, and I'll be sending wishes to you today, and all year long.

REST IN PEACE,
AMANDA and CHUCK YALE
ROGER DAVIS, KYLE DAVIS,
WILLIE COMBS,
CHUCK JR., KOLTON and
JOSE YALE
BRODY and LOGAN COMBS

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CrossRoads to Victory Church
Speaker: Terry Devers
February 16th-19th
Sunday at 6:00 pm
Monday - Wednesday 7:00 pm
Everyone is Invited!
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New Hope Church, Inc.
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Fairgrounds Rd.

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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.

Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all

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Oak firewood, 1/2 cord or full cord. We sell stacks of wood. 904-653-1442. 2/13-3/16p

2 sofas \$50 each; 2 queen mattresses \$40 each; 1 queen boxspring \$20; chain-saw \$40; drumset \$70; antique style entertainment center \$125. 904-586-5791. 2/13p

Gold's Gym Strider Trainer Climber 300 asking \$300; sofa and matching chair \$600; golf cart, runs good \$2000. Call and leave message. 259-2236. 2/6-13p

Kenmore washer \$100; single bedframe \$25; futon sofa/bed \$75; 40" flat screen TV \$150. 259-2271. 2/13p

2009 travel trailer 39' self contained with 2 electric slideouts, rollout awning, central air, electric jack, tri-axle; many extras. \$19,500. 800.717.454-8870. (Jacksonville) 2/13p

Artists. Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more. On sale now. The Office Mart, 110 S. Fifth Street, 259-3737. 2/13p

Camille Beckman hand cream, Root candles, unique gift items. Southern Charm 110 S. 5th Street. 259-4140. 4/28tfc

Office Supplies, printer and fax cartridges, rubber stamps and much more. We specialize in hard to find items. The Office Mart, 110 S. 5th Street. 259-3737 4/28tfc

FOUND

Woodwater found in Glen. Call to identify. 904-653-1237, code 1956 Buddy Cox. 2/13p

MISCELLANEOUS

Home Improvements-porches, decks, remodeling-any home repair. Licensed & Insured. 904-591-2640. 10/17tfc

A Successful Young Woman seeks to adopt. Financially secure, loving and caring household. Expenses paid. Call or text Jodi 609-770-1255, or visit www.jodi2adopt.webs.com/ Adam Sklar 80150789. 2/13p

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DISH TV Retailer. Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) Broadband Internet starting \$14.95/month (where available.) Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-980-6193. 2/13p

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Alcoholics anonymous meetings Monday and Friday at 8 pm. Call Wanda 904-994-7750. 209 Macclenny Ave. 1/2-12/25p

1995 Oldsmobile Model 98 Elite. 4 door, rebuilt, 6 cylinder, ice cold AC, power windows, locks, seats, cruise control, tilt steering; vinyl maintained, adult driven. \$1800 080. Vince 259-7706 or 904-316-3107. 2/13p

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GMC ACADIA, 2007. What A Beauty And I PROMISE YOU That There Is No Cleaner One In The State Of Florida For Only \$14,490. CALL (352) 436-4733. 2/13p

DODGE CARAVAN, 2012. Passenger Van With Very Clean History And Ready To Go For Only \$13,885. CALL (352) 436-4733. 2/13p

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Beautiful x-large lot, power, water, fruit and citrus trees, Hillside Drive, Macclenny, on a paved dead end street. Reduced to \$37,500. 259-4569. 1/30-2/13p

3 BR, 2 BA mobile home on 1 acre. \$600/month plus \$500 deposit. Call Tammy 904-507-9647. 2/6-13p

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2 BR, 1 BA singlewide in county. \$500/month plus \$500 deposit. 904-219-8094. 1/23-2/13p

2 BR mobile home available. \$385/month. Half acre; garbage, water, sewer, lawn care provided; family neighborhood. 912-843-8118 or 904-699-8637. www.rent-yes.net. 10/31tfc

Clean 3 BR, 1 BA home. 9121 Dolphin Street, Sanderson. \$650/month plus \$650 deposit. Call 904-813-1580 or 259-2255. 11/21tfc

2 BR, 2 BA \$650/month plus \$500 deposit. Extra clean; front porch. Service animals only; references required. 259-2121. 10/31tfc

COMMERCIAL FR

For Lease - 1500 SF retail/office space at 541 S. 6th Street, Macclenny, \$1000/month. Call Jack at 904-616-9432. 9/26tfc

MOBILE HOMES

Brand new 3 BR 28x60 doublewide. \$49,900. Includes set-up, AC, steps, skirting. 259-4663. wayneferri@macclenny.com. 1/30-2/20c

Used SW mobile home. Great shape; metal roof. \$9900. Set-up and delivered. 259-4663. 1/30-2/20c

COMMERCIAL RE

Large building, 65 W McIver Street. Kitchen, bathroom. Owner will finance. 259-9590. 1/23-2/20p

FOR RENT

3 BR, 2 BA DW mobile home on private property. \$775/month plus \$500 deposit. Service animals only. Call Bruce 904-838-3130. 2/13p

2 BR, 1 BA end unit apartment. S. 7th Street, directly behind First Baptist Church. Ceramic tile in common areas, W/D hook-up. \$575/month plus security deposit. Military and senior discount. 904-703-6306. Call or text. 2/13p

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Experienced OTR Flatbed Drivers earn 50 up to 55 cpm loaded. \$1000 sign on to

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Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 12970 N. State Road 121. Tools, antique iron and other old stuff. No clothes. 259-7388 Residential and Business Licensed & Insured 2/13-20c

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-?, 11769 Huckleberry Trail East, Macclenny. Household, men and women's clothing and much more. 2/13-20c

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 622 Largo Lane, Cypress Pointe, Macclenny. Desk, refrigerator, patio furniture, small screen enclosure, books and much more. No early birds. 2/13-20c

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-?, 5529 CR 23C, Macclenny. Furniture, lamps, household, baseball equipment, clothes and much more. 2/13-20c

2 BR, 1 1/2 BA singlewide in Glen. Service animals only. \$600/month plus \$500 deposit. Call Michelle 904-588-2589. 2/13p

1 BR, 1 BA large RV, great for single person, no children. \$399/month plus \$200 deposit. Electric included. 904-891-1919. 2/13-20p

2 BR, 1 BA house in county. Living room, dining room, kitchen appliances, CHA, front/back porch. \$700/month plus \$800 deposit. 259-6966. 2/13c

2 BR, 2 BA duplex, nicest in town. Washer, dryer, dishwasher, front/back porch; water, sewage included. \$700/month plus deposit. 904-718-8898. 2/6-13p

2 BR, 1 BA clean mobile home on 1 acre. \$600/month plus \$500 deposit. Call Tammy 904-507-9647. 2/6-13p

2 BR, 2 BA mobile home, CHA, \$575/month plus deposit; 3 BR, 2 BA mobile home, \$625/month plus deposit. 904-860-4604. 1/30tfc

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Softball 3-1 after come-from-behind win

JON SHUMAKE SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The Lady Wildcat softball team won two out of three after its opening game victory to conclude its first week of action with a 3-1 overall record and a 1-0 record within the district.

The Lady Cats bounced back from their first loss of the year with a 9-8 come-from-behind victory over the visiting Hilliard Lady Flashes on February 11. Ashton Alford scored on a wild pitch to tie the game in the

bottom of the sixth inning after reaching base on a triple. The girls took the lead four batters later when Hayleigh Mulkey drove in two runs on a double to give the team a 9-7 lead.

Pitcher Mack Jackson, who entered the game in the fourth inning in relief of Corley Sweat, allowed the Lady Flashes to score a run in the top of the seventh, but she avoided disaster and held off a Hilliard rally to secure the victory.

The girls fought back from a four-run deficit midway through the game to pull out

their third win. A three-run fourth inning pulled the Lady Cats within one run of the lead. Delicia Washington and Kylie Holton both drove in runs on RBI doubles and Jennifer Hodges batted in a runner on a single during the rally.

Both teams were held scoreless in the fifth before the Lady Cats took the lead for good in the sixth.

The Lady Cats won an early-season District 3-5A game when they rolled past the hosting Stanton Lady Blue Devils 17-5 in five innings on February 6.

After ending the first inning with a 4-4 tie, the girls took the lead in the second with a Jackson RBI single that scored Hodges. Jackson scored shortly after on a Holton sacrifice fly.

Baker County exploded offensively with a six-run third inning to break away from the home team. Mulkey blasted a two-run home run during the rally to score Jackson, who had reached base on another RBI single. Genie Taylor's RBI single started the high-scoring inning by driving in Branda Jarvis.

The team also took advantage of Stanton's defensive mishaps during the decisive third inning. Taylor and Payton Parker, who was a perfect 3-for-3 with two doubles, both scored on an error by the Lady Blue Devils.

Stanton had a chance to quickly respond in the bottom half of the inning, but Baker County pitcher Sweat navigated out of a bases loaded situation without giving a run to make the score 12-4 entering the fourth inning.

She was able to settle down after the four-run first inning and allowed just five hits and one run through the final four frames.

The Lady Cats continued to capitalize on Stanton's defensive woes to extend their lead in the fourth inning. Mackenzie Wingard and Alford, who reached base on an error, advanced on scoring position on a wild pitch. They both crossed the plate on an error during Hodges' at bat to give the team a 10-run lead.

The squad added to its lead once again in the top of the fifth

bottom of the sixth inning after reaching base on a triple. The girls took the lead four batters later when Hayleigh Mulkey drove in two runs on a double to give the team a 9-7 lead.

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Photo courtesy of James Brownlee Jr.

Two wrestlers on way to state

Two Wildcat wrestlers, Brandon Harvey and Lenny Carter, advanced to the state championship February 14-15 in Lake-Land, FL recently. Mr. Harvey placed third in the 132-pound weight class and Mr. Carter was fourth in the 220 class. Pictured above from the qualifying meet (from left) are coach Zac Barrett, Harvey, Carter, coach Adam Brunner and coach Jarrett Hand.

Madison Perry-Ruiz makes history with 3rd state finish

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
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File photo by Jud Johnson
Madison Perry-Ruiz at a home meet this season.

Madison Perry-Ruiz made school history when she became the first BCHS Lady Wildcat weightlifter to place at state with her sixth-place finish in the 129 weight class on February 8 in Kissimmee.

The junior lifter broke her own school record with a 295 total to earn a medal at state. She tied her school records with a 135-pound bench press and a 160-pound clean and jerk to set the new total mark for the 129 class.

"We were very, very excited," head coach Scott McDonald said. "It was awesome to see her go out and compete like that."

Coach McDonald said the top two lifters in the division were both seniors and they ran away with their spots, but it left a logjam of about 12 girls competing against each other. Perry-Ruiz was right there along with everyone and she competed hard to make history, the coach said, and it could influence Lady Wildcat weightlifters in the coming years.

"It should let these girls know what we're doing works," coach McDonald said. "It shows these young ladies it's possible."

In addition to Perry-Ruiz's school record performance, Mackenzie Hand also had a good showing at state in the 154 class with a 270 total. Coach McDonald said she attempted her personal best in both the bench press and clean and jerk, but she was unable to complete the lifts.

He said he is proud of the effort both Hand and Perry-Ruiz put in during the state competition. "They went down there just like a Wildcat should and showed out for their school," Coach McDonald said.

Show the medal ceremony

My friends know I am a huge fan of the Olympics. Winter, summer, para, any kind of Olympics is fine with me.

The whole idea of competing for your country appeals to me. I can think of nothing that must feel like to stand up on that podium and see your flag and hear that national anthem playing.

Athletes made of stern stuff dissolve into tears. It is the culmination of years worth of work. So much time, effort, money, injury, sweat and tears goes into the two weeks of competition that is the Olympics.

Offentimes, the sports being contested are ones we in the USA barely know exist. But for other countries they are national obsessions.

I watched the biathlon competition on Saturday. It requires cross country skiing and precise target shooting

from a prone and standing position.

In other words, athletes' heart rates go through the roof as they ski up and down hills and then for the time it takes to shoot, they have to control their shaking limbs and la-

bored breathing. It's fascinating, but an event only for Winter Olympics.

In Russia, however, it ranks just behind ice hockey as the country's favorite sport. So the Russian fans were going crazy. The announcer, a biathlete himself, called it like it was the last thirty seconds of the NBA finals.

I got into it. The fact that the eventual Norwegian winner was in his mid-forties and the most decorated Olympic athlete of all time with 13

medals was even better.

I have been unimpressed with NBC's coverage of the games. I know very little about any but the most famous of winter athletes, but NBC has not engaged us with pre-recorded stories about them.

In the past I shun those vignettes because they focus on some tragedy the athlete is trying to overcome to get us to root for them, but I'd like to know something about them.

Another knock is I have yet to see a medal ceremony. Even the two American gold medalists in snowboarding haven't had their medal ceremonies shown in prime time.

One of my favorite moments from the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver was skier Hannah Kearney dissolving in tears at the playing of the anthem. I feel cheated somehow.

Get with the program NBC.

Netters drop opener

JON SHUMAKE
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Photo by Jud Johnson
Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com
The Wildcats' Brach Dukeman.



Evan Barrett serves.

Palatka knocks out Cats

JON SHUMAKE
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The BCHS Lady Wildcats' first playoff appearance in more than a decade came to an end on February 6 with a 64-36 loss at Palatka in the Class 5A regional quarterfinals.

The Lady Cats had a tough time stopping Palatka's 6'3 low-post powerhouse Jonell Williams. She dominated the boards offensively as she out-matched anything the defense tried doing to stop her and finished with a game-high 28 points.

"She was unstoppable," said head coach Chris Chisholm. "We didn't have nothing to match up with her. She's a very skilled player."

The Lady Cats were competitive through much of the first half and a Kiala Pigott three-pointer gave the team its first lead with 3:15 left. It didn't last long, however, as the Lady Panthers went on an 11-2 run over the final three minutes, including scoring seven points off three turnovers in about a minute. The scoring run gave Palatka a seven point halftime edge.

The Lady Panthers pulled away in the second half as Williams' dominance down low opened up shooting opportunities on the outside for their other shooters.

"When we doubled (Williams), we were hoping their other players would have an off night, but they didn't," coach Chisholm said. "When they

started hitting the outside shots, we just couldn't match up with them."

Baker County was outscored 20-2 in the third quarter, with the only points coming from two of Delicia Washington's team-high 20. The team also committed six turnovers that helped Palatka get easy shots on the offensive end.

Palatka slightly padded its lead in the fourth quarter to seal the win and advance to play Bishop Kenny in the regional semifinals.

The playoff loss ended a late-season surge that saw the Lady Wildcats win 10 out of their 14 games in 2014, which included a six-game winning streak to end the regular season.

Coach Chisholm said he is proud of the way his young team, which started two sophomores and a freshman, responded in the second half of the season after getting off to a slow start.

"They came together as a team and worked really hard," he said. "They understood what the coaching staff was trying to teach them and I'm very proud of them."

The playoff loss didn't discourage the Lady Cats; it only gave them the motivation to work harder for next season.

"After the game, the girls were already talking about next season and working this summer," coach Chisholm said. "That's something you look forward to as a coach. The next three years are going to be bright."

ties," he said in an e-mail. "Ability-wise, I feel we had the better team going into the match. We certainly have things to work on, but overall, I am very proud of my team and what they accomplished on Thursday."

The tennis team had a chance to bounce back from its opening meet loss on February 11 (see next week's edition for results). The squad will return home February 13 when it hosts Yulee.

Cats lose in district final

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The BCHS Wildcats had their district title dreams dashed in heartbreaking fashion when they fell 62-61 in overtime to the visiting Bishop Kenny Crusaders in the final round of the District 3-5A tournament on February 7.

The Cats took a one-point lead with 20 seconds remaining in overtime when Charles Ruise Jr. hit a jumper to score the final two of his game-high 37 points. The team's defense held strong against Bishop Kenny's initial attempt to regain the lead, but Baker County knocked the ball out of bounds when trying to get the rebound with about two seconds remaining.

Bishop Kenny playmaker Christian Carlyle caught the ensuing in bounds pass and threw up a last-ditch shot attempt, but he was fouled in the process and went to the line for two free-throw shots. He drained both to give the Crusaders the 62-61 lead with about one second left in overtime as boos rained down from the Baker County faithful.

"It was a judgement call," Wildcat head coach Charles Ruise said about the game-changing foul. "If he said it was a foul, it was a foul. We just have to do a better job picking up defensively in situations like that to eliminate the catch to close out the game."

The Wildcats still had a slight hope as Jesse Gardner launched a three-quarter court shot that was almost on target, but it rimmed out and clinched Bishop Kenny's district title win.

But to even get to overtime, the Cats had to claw back from a nine-point halftime deficit. The Cats were struggling to get shots to fall in the first half while they were unable to stop Bishop Kenny's outside game. The Crusaders made six of their 11 first-half three-point attempts to give them their halftime lead.

"Communication from the bench to the players on the court wasn't clear and it was causing some breakdowns," coach Ruise said. "We felt like the kids were playing hard and well, but we just weren't getting the ball in the basket and we had to get our defense in check."

The Cats' offense found its rhythm during the physical second half.

They outscored Bishop Kenny 18-5 in the first six minutes of the third quarter to take a four-point lead, which was their first lead since the first quarter. During the scoring run, Baker County won a scramble for the ball that resulted in a dog pile at half court that set the tone for the remainder of the game.

"We went in and we wanted to hold our own physically," coach Ruise said. "We made some adjustments that led to some of that play."

Although the Cats dominated the majority of the third quarter, the Crusaders recaptured a two-point lead entering the fourth quarter with the help of a quick 8-3 scoring run at the end of the third frame.

The physicality continued in the final quarter and neither squad managed more than a two-point advantage. Carlyle made a go-ahead shot on a tip-in with 1:27 to give the Crusaders a two-point lead. Baker County quickly responded as Ruise sank a shot to tie the game.

Gardner hit what would have been the game-winning shot at the end of regulation, but the buzzer sounded before he released the ball. The referees waved off the shot and the game went into overtime tied at 53.

Brandon Lewis scored six points in overtime to keep the Cats alive, but the late foul shots helped the Crusaders escape with the win.

With the loss, the team has to travel to play District 4-5A champion Ponte Vedra on February 13 in the regional quarterfinal game.

To get to the District 3-5A tournament final, the Wildcats had four players reach double-digit scoring to give the team a hard-fought 64-57 win over the Paxon Golden Eagles on February 5.

The Cats couldn't find an offensive rhythm during the first half and had a tough time getting shots

to fall. Paxon took advantage of Baker County's shooting woes and took a seven-point lead in the second quarter with the help of making five out of 10 shots from downtown.

The Baker County squad fought back with an 11-5 run to tie the game at halftime.

The Wildcats' offense began shooting better in the second half, but they couldn't find a way to put Paxon away. The Golden Eagles rallied from a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit to pull within one shot of tying the game with 1:15 remaining.

The Cats shooters responded to the pressure as Ruise nailed a shot to make it a two-possession game with a minute left. CeCe Jefferson slammed home the dagger about 30 seconds later to cap off his 16-point night and give the team a six-point lead. Ruise put the game out of reach with a free-throw with less than 10 seconds remaining to finish with a team-high 18 points.

In addition to Ruise's and Jefferson's impressive offensive performances, Brian Walton scored 12 points and Gardner added 10.



Photo by Jud Johnson
Charles Ruise, Jr. takes a shot in the paint.



Photo by Jud Johnson
CeCe Jefferson battles for a rebound.

Cats get preseason victory

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The BCHS Wildcat baseball team defeated the visiting Bishop Snyder Cardinals 3-2 in eight innings in their lone preseason game on February 3.

Pitcher Jordan Kennedy threw four no-hit innings and Mikal Flores went 2-2 at the plate with two walks to give the Cats the one-run win. They led by 2-0 in the seventh inning, but a series of defensive mistakes allowed the Cardinals to tie the game. The home squad was able to pull out the victory with a walkoff hit to end the game.

The team's second pre-season game that was scheduled for the following Thursday was rained out, which left a lot of unanswered questions entering the February 11 season opener against Eagle's View at FSCJ, coach Fred Matricardi said.

"I wish we saw more on Thursday," he said. "We don't feel as prepared as we normally do because of the weather, but



Photo by Jud Johnson
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Tyler slides into home last week.

it's something every team has dealt with."

He said he hopes his team can pitch well and play defense and have the offense "scratch a few runs across" to win against Eagle's View. See next week's edition for coverage of that contest.

Although the coaches didn't get the preseason time they desired, the team still looked improved from a preseason camp

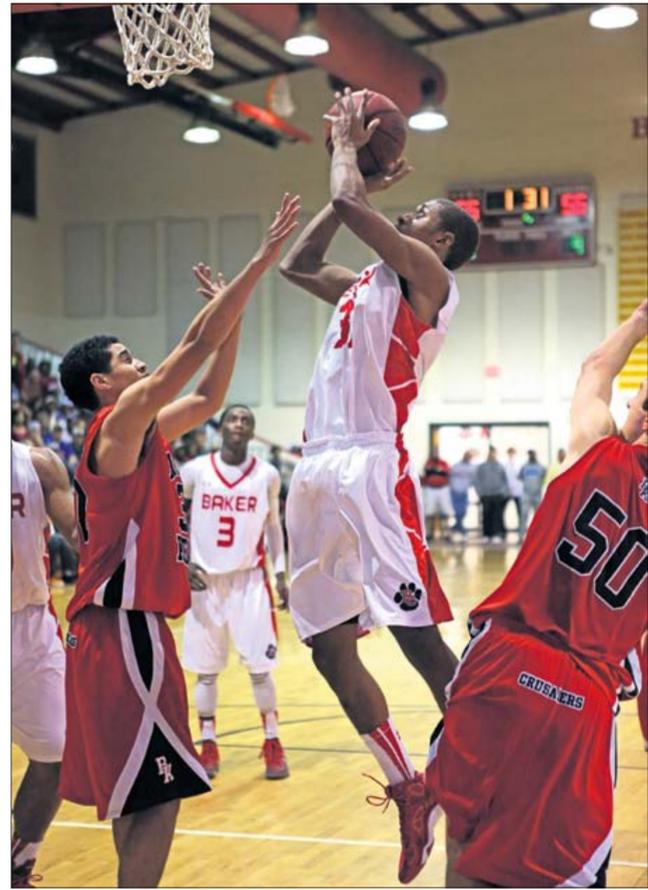


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Brandon Lewis (center) scored six in overtime against the Crusaders.

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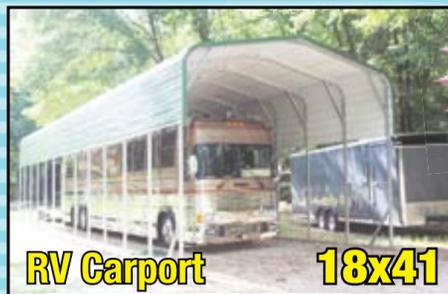


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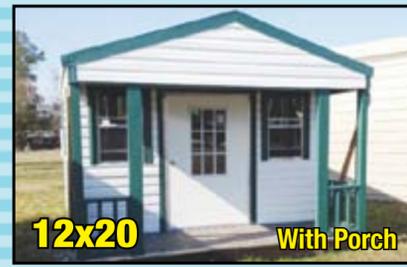


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