



Former BCHS principal Boutwell dies at age 70

See page 8



BK ends Wildcats' playoff run in regional semis

See page 15

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

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75¢

FEBRUARY 20, 2014 THURSDAY

Barton is in running for vacant BCSB seat

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

The 2014 political season in Baker County has begun with all four incumbents — County Commissioners Jimmy Anderson and Adam Giddens and School Board members Dean Griffis and Artie Burnett — seeking re-election.

Nothing out of the ordinary there.

But something most unusual is happening in the race to fill a vacancy on the school board. Actually, it's not a race yet, because only one candidate has emerged: Former Baker County Schools Superintendent Paula T. Barton.



Paula Barton

And Ms. Barton is the only person so far who has already collected and turned in to the Supervisor of Elections Office enough signatures of registered voters to put her name on the ballot.

"Paula Barton has turned in enough petitions," Elections Supervisor Nita Crawford said on February 17. "She's the only candidate who has turned hers back in."

Ms. Barton, who became Baker County's first female superintendent in 1996 and later won reelection twice without opposition, is seeking to fill the seat vacated last August by Jesse Davis, who resigned to take a job out of state with over a year remaining on his first term. She said she submitted "probably close to 200 signatures."

Soon after Mr. Davis resigned, Ms. Barton said, she began looking at the situation as a chance to return to a public service career that spanned 35 years, including 22 years as a teacher and administrator and 12 years as superintendent.

"After 35 years you just know when it's time to retire," she said during an interview on February 14, adding that she left office because her mother was very ill at the time and she wanted to spend more time with her and her grandchildren.

See page 2



150th Anniversary of the BATTLE of OLUSTEE February 14-16



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Photos by Jud Johnson
Above average crowds enjoyed the great weather at the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Olustee which started this past Friday and ended Sunday afternoon.

Scott's 2014-15 budget staffs re-entry prison

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

After years of cutting government and taxes during lean times, Governor Rick Scott is ready to celebrate Florida's economic recovery.

The governor recently unveiled his 2014-15 budget recommendations topping \$74 billion. It funds many priorities for various constituencies that want a piece of Florida's anticipated \$1 billion budget surplus.

Small counties like Baker are no exception. Much of the state revenue that flows to the county and other government agencies here is either increasing or staying at current-year levels.

Plus, Gov. Scott wants to fund operations at the now unused Baker County Re-Entry Center just west of the Interstate 10 and US 90 interchange near Sanderson. The facility was built by

the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) and completed last year, but the state never allocated money to open it.

Gov. Scott's budget calls for about \$6.5 million for that purpose, however. It includes funding for 91 new full-time jobs as well as food, equipment, health-care and re-entry programs and services,

said FDOC communications director Jessica Cary.

The re-entry center will prepare inmates within 18 months of release for the transition back into Northeast Florida communities using education and job training, substance abuse counseling and other programs.

Still, it remains unclear who will manage the re-entry facility. It could be the state, or the state could hire an outside contractor.

That's one question the Florida Legislature is expected to answer this spring, while crafting the state's new budget and submitting it for the governor's signature.

The county commission's lobbyist Chris Doolin recently called attention to additional funding for the school district as well. He said in a January 29 e-mail to county officials that the governor recommended spending at least \$250,000 for technology upgrades in each of the state's 67 school districts.

Baker County schools finance chief Marcelle Richardson said the district would see some \$287,000 for digital technologies if the governor's budget becomes reality.

See page 4

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOV. SCOTT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

- Education:** \$542 million more for K-12 schools, funded mostly from growth in local property tax revenue, or \$169 more per pupil.
- Fees:** \$500 million in fee and tax cuts, including \$400 million to reduce auto tag fees; \$100 million sales tax cut in business rents.
- Children:** \$32 million to hire 447 child protective workers in the Department of Children and Families.
- Debt:** Reduction of outstanding state debt by \$170 million.
- Water:** \$130 million for Everglades and water projects; \$55 million for springs protection.
- Technology:** Creation of new Agency for State Technology at a cost of \$3.4 million.
- Workers:** Net loss of 57 full-time jobs, the fewest in any Scott budget proposal.

Developer requests break on duplex impact fee

See page 5

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Should students at BCMS or BCHS be denied lunch if they have no money in their lunch account?

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Election: Barton running...

From page 1

But when Jesse Davis resigned last year that "opened up a window of opportunity" and she began thinking then about running for office with "a lot of encouragement and support" from friends.

"This is an opportunity to serve the public, and I believe in public service," she said. "I believe if the people want me to sit there, fine, and if they don't I'll be okay."

After 12 years occupying the top leadership desk where all the bucks stopped, will she be able to transition into a new role as just one of five board members with an equal say and an equal vote on matters affecting Baker County schools?

"Yes," Ms. Barton said emphatically. "I understand the role and responsibility of school board members. They establish policies and procedures."

If elected, she said she just hopes to have a "positive impact that serves the best interests of our children."

During her 12 years as superintendent, Ms. Barton said she was most proud of the new Macclenny Elementary School and the new Pre-K/Kindergarten Center being built during her tenure. She said she also was proud of "having a record of doing what's best for children and treating all people with dignity and respect."

Although Ms. Barton may have harbored a desire to fill the vacant seat, she did not submit her name to Gov. Rick Scott's office as a candidate last year as three other individuals did. The governor has not appointed a replacement and is not likely to this close to the election, which could be filled in the primary on August 26.

Those who notified the governor's office of their interest and willingness to serve were Chuck Brannan, former head of the investigations division in the sheriff's office who recently retired as

head courthouse bailiff, Leonard Davis, a retired Civil Service worker and unsuccessful county commission candidate a couple of years ago; and Naomi Roberson, a member of Macclenny's Zoning and Adjustment Board.

Each of the three said last week that they were still considering running for the board this year but had not reached a decision. They all said they knew that Ms. Barton was going to be a candidate but that it was not a factor in their decision.

Noting that he and Ms. Barton are friends, Mr. Davis said that relationship as well as the prospect of running against a former superintendent would not cause him to avoid the race.

"That wouldn't influence me at all," he said. "I just haven't decided yet. It's a little early."

Actually, it's not all that early. Qualifying for candidates begins at noon on June 16 and ends at noon on June 20. Candidates may qualify by paying a fee of \$1,851.91 for a county commission seat or \$1,050.48 for a school board seat, or by petitions, which must be turned in to the elections office by noon on May 19.

Qualifying by petition as a county commission candidate or a school board hopeful requires the same number of signatures, 1 percent of the total number of registered voters county-wide: 140. But it's best to get more than the bare minimum required just in case some of them are not certified as being on the current registration rolls by the elections supervisor.

Of the four incumbent officeholders seeking reelection, three are in the final year of their first four-year term: Mr. Anderson, a Republican and roofing contractor; Mr. Giddens, also a member of the GOP and chief financial officer with Giddens Security Co.; and Mr. Burnett, a state corrections officer. Mr. Griffiths, who owns the Glen Cash hardware store, was first elected to

the school board in 2002.

If Ms. Barton draws an opponent and eventually were to lose the race it wouldn't be because she didn't know how to run a campaign. She grew up in a political household as the daughter of former Sheriff Paul Thrift.

School board elections are non-partisan, but county commissioners run under political party banners and are elected by voters county-wide, though they represent specific areas. For example, Mr. Anderson, a Republican, represents District 2, which is South Macclenny, whereas Mr. Giddens, also a member of the GOP, represents District 4, which encompasses neighbors in northern Baker County.

Voter registration books will be open for new voters to sign up or for current electors who want to switch political parties until 29 days prior to each election date: August 26 for the primary and November 4 for the general election.

Salaries for county offices are based on population and are set by the state annually. The current salary for Baker County commissioners is \$30,866, while school board members receive \$26,262. Both groups have two regularly scheduled meetings each month.

There are no Macclenny city elections this year. Forms for voter registration (which include political party changes, address changes, and name changes) are available at the Supervisor of Elections Office at 32 N. 5th Street in Macclenny. Also, forms are available at the public library downtown and at all post offices in the county.

People also may go to the supervisor's website — <http://www.bakerelections.com/> — to access registration forms or to request absentee ballots. For further information call the elections office at 259-6339.

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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.

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

Lower duplex fees only shifts burden to taxpayers

The issue of impact fees — reducing or doing away with them — has been bubbling beneath the surface for years now in Baker County.

There's been public and private meetings among county landowners and developers about impact fees, which are charged by local governments prior to construction to offset the costs of growth, namely road maintenance and improvements, additional demands for police and fire protection, and school maintenance and expansion.

These people, many prominent leaders in the business community here, often use this logic — less costs on developers means they can build more stuff, which means more property tax and fee revenue for governments. That may seem like air-tight reasoning, but it ignores other forces at work here.

The county commission, for instance, waived its impact fee for transportation during the Great Recession to help spur housing construction. The City of Macclenny and school district kept their fees in place, however. They total about \$12,500 for a conventional single-family home.

But to what extent did the county's impact fee moratorium buoy home construction outside the city, if at all? Perhaps the economic recovery and rebounding real estate market nationwide played a role? Who knows.

Still, it's not surprising that landowners and builders like Rock Rhoden and his father Thomas Rhoden are seeking to take advantage of the current economic climate.

Interest rates are still relatively low and may not stay that way for long, so investing in new development now is probably a pretty shrewd move. Nothing wrong with that.

Enter Mr. Rhoden's plan to place 12 duplexes totaling 24 units on property his family purchased at the height of the real estate boom in 2005. Couple it with Mr. Rhoden's recent request that city commissioners reduce Macclenny's impact fees on duplexes [see related story on page 5]. The fees total about \$25,000, or double the amount for single-family homes.

As Commissioner Sam Kitching pointed out, the duplex fees are so high because duplexes generally house twice as many people as a traditional home and there is generally twice as much demand for city services including utilities, trash pickup and the like.

City commissioners appear

to be willing to explore a reduction to the existing impact fees. They would be wise to consider

how the reduction would affect other city residents, other developers and the county as a whole.

There will be an impact from adding 24 new dwellings to the city, to be sure. At some point

there will be more vehicles on the roadways, more children going to school and more 9-1-1 calls once those duplexes are occupied.

And at some point, someone has to pay for the additional public services.

The important questions are who is going to pay and when.

Basically Mr. Rhoden wants the city commission to shift that bill, or at least some of it, onto future taxpayers at large,

rather than pay for his project's impacts up front and pass the bill onto the buyers or renters of the duplexes.

I certainly don't begrudge him for seeking the reduction as it would lower his costs and presumably make his property more marketable and profitable upon resale.

But it's on city commissioners, who are entrusted with managing growth in the city and maintaining public infra-

structure to serve that growth, to exercise some forethought and look beyond this one project.

Why should city commissioners, and by extension city taxpayers and voters, agree to cover the costs of future impacts from this development simply to make the project more economically viable for Mr. Rhoden's business and any future duplex developers?

Mr. Rhoden argued the im-

impact fees are the reason no one has built duplexes in the city since the fees were increased in 2005. He failed to note that between then and now there's been an economic recession in which property values plummeted and new home construction ground to a halt.

Remember, nothing happens in a vacuum.

Do city commissioners even really know whether duplexes are economically viable with the existing impact fees in place? What if a developer has more capital to invest than Mr. Rhoden happens to have?

Beyond shifting infrastructure costs to taxpayers, granting Mr. Rhoden's request would lead to another problem we'll call the precedent problem.

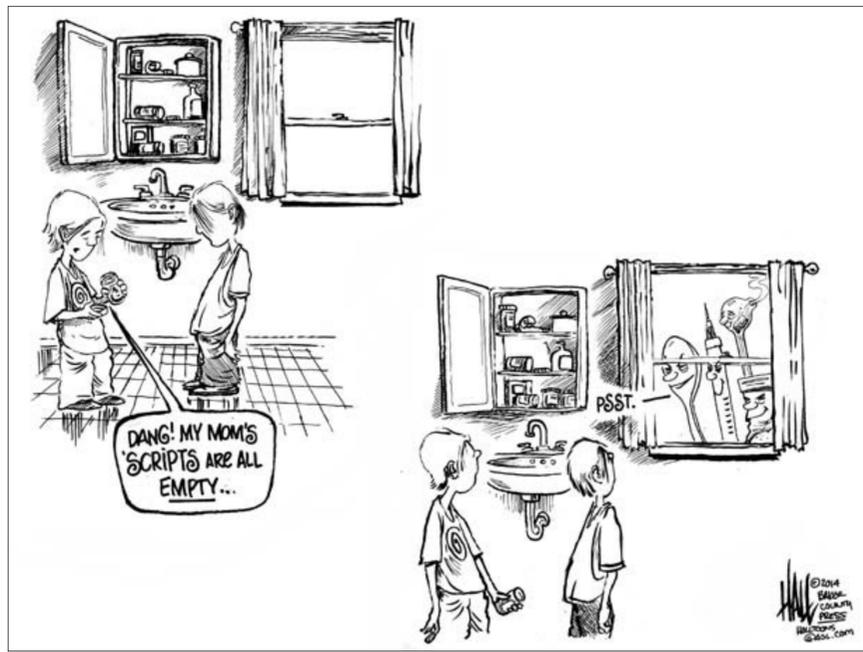
If city commissioners give Mr. Rhoden his wish, then duplexes in Macclenny will become "special" in terms of how much developers have to pay to build them. The lower impact fees for duplexes may encourage developers of other higher-density projects, like apartments or small-lot subdivisions, to seek similar breaks for their developments, too.

And once you cut fees and/or taxes, it's generally politically unpopular, and thus very difficult, to reverse course without a really good reason.

So when you're actually feeling the growing pains and seeing deteriorating roads, utility pipes and emergency response times, it will be too late to avoid big tax or fee increases to pay for sorely needed improvements. By that time, the developers are usually long gone and taxpayers are left to pay the bill.

Should commissioners trade that potential disaster for a "business-friendly" image today?

I think not.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Band-aid' clinic only?

Dear Editor:
It's a shame when one goes to the hospital in Macclenny and waits over an hour to be seen in the ER. The staff would rather discuss dogs, cats and their hair than treat a broken hand.
What's the use in having a hospital in Baker County if it's no more than a "band-aid" clinic?



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION

No credit for school meals?

We received information via Facebook this week about the no-credit policy for meals at the middle and high schools. It was reported that students who don't have cash or money in their accounts for meals are turned away. We used the matter for our online poll this week (see results on front page) and asked readers to comment on Facebook about their thoughts on the policy. Here's a look at some of the responses:

Carrie Chris Browning: No child should be denied food, as sometimes school is the only place they can get it. But, as with everything else these days, there will be many that would take advantage, so there needs to be "rules" put in place for this as well and steps to be taken for when this occurs, so it is not taken advantage of.

Barry Melton: Common sense and compassion must come into play here. If the kid is short one day, then do an IOU or something like that. I mean, it can be an official thing, like when you don't have money at a toll booth or something like that. The parents/guardians are responsible for repaying the debt. However, if the student habitually does not have enough funds, the parents/guardians should be notified immediately, meaning the school administration should handle the problem from that point and not the "lunch lady."

Roxanne Williams Lloyd: I don't feel like they should be denied. We never know what's a child's situation at home.

Kristy Huckleby: It is my personal opinion that no child regardless of age should be denied a meal at school. I agree that it is our responsibility as parents to make sure that our children have funds in their account but I

Baker County valentines ...

In honor of Valentines Day we asked our readers to post their valentines photos online with the hash tag #BValentines. Here's a look at the photos submitted with some additional information:



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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
Macclenny	56 / 37
Watertown	56 / 36
High Springs	58 / 37
Callahan	55 / 37
Baldwin	56 / 37
St. Augustine	57 / 43
Fernandina Beach	55 / 42
Jacksonville	55 / 41
Atlantic Beach	55 / 43

Sun/Moon Chart This Week	
Full 2/14	Thursday 7:09 a.m. 6:15 p.m.
2/14	Friday 7:08 a.m. 6:16 p.m.
	Saturday 7:07 a.m. 6:17 p.m.
	Sunday 7:06 a.m. 6:18 p.m.
Last 2/22	Monday 7:05 a.m. 6:18 p.m.
	Tuesday 7:04 a.m. 6:19 p.m.
	Wednesday 7:03 a.m. 6:20 p.m.

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

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

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.	

Last Week's Local Almanac	
Day	High Low Normals Precip
Tue, 2/4	77 55 68/44 0.00"
Wed, 2/5	77 59 68/44 0.25"
Thu, 2/6	59 41 68/44 0.35"
Fri, 2/7	55 46 68/44 0.02"
Sat, 2/8	54 39 68/44 0.01"
Sun, 2/9	68 36 68/44 0.00"
Mon, 2/10	72 37 69/44 0.00"

MACCLENNY CITY COMMISSION

Lower duplex impact fees sought

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

When impact fees were increased on new residential developments in Macclenny almost nine years ago, the higher costs didn't have much effect on the construction of single-family residences because they were simply passed along to the home buyers.

The impact fees on duplexes, however, soared from around \$5,200 to nearly \$25,000, which brought that segment of the construction industry to an immediate halt in the city, one builder told city officials last week in a plea for lower fees.

"No duplex has been built in Macclenny since the fees went up in 2005," Rock Rhoden, owner of Rock Contracting Custom Homes, told city commissioners during a board meeting the evening of February 11.

He asked the board to schedule a workshop with himself and other interested contractors to discuss the fees and consider lowering them in an effort to make the construction of duplexes a more affordable business decision.

Arranging financing for construction of duplexes in Macclenny now is virtually impossible, he claims, because of the additional fees.

"Going from \$5,000 to \$25,000, that's a bunch," Mr. Rhoden said. "It's going to be hard to get them appraised."

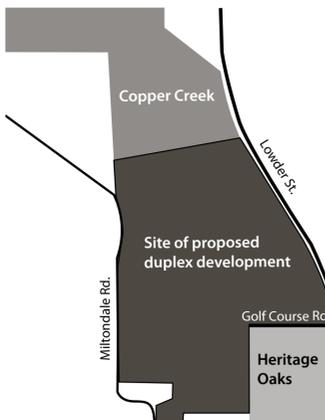
Mr. Rhoden said he's prepared to begin building 12 new duplexes — 24 separate rental units — if impact fees are lowered to bring down his costs enough to make the projects more economically viable.

At today's rates, he said, his total permit fees would amount to about \$300,000, which would put the projects out of reach. If the fees totaled around \$200,000 he said he could do it.

Some counties treat duplexes like single family residences, in terms of the impact fees assessed, he said, whereas builders here are hit with much higher fees for duplexes.

"Nobody has paid these new fees (in Macclenny)," Mr. Rhoden told commissioners. "I'm hoping we can work together and meet somewhere in the middle."

Mayor Gary Dopson said he didn't mind



researching how other jurisdictions handle impact fees for duplexes and agreed that \$25,000 "is a lot of money." But he noted that most of that amount is allocated for water and sewer tap-in fees and impact fees that go to the school district.

"The city's impact fee is only about \$3,500," the mayor said, referring to the city's fee for traditional single-family homes.

Impact fees are charges assessed against new developments that are intended to provide funding for infrastructure improvements — roads and utilities, school expansions, and increased law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services — necessitated by growth.

"We could give a break on the (utility) tie-in fee, but I can almost guarantee you" the city will not lower the impact fees on duplexes to put them more in line with the fees assessed for single family residences, the mayor said.

Commissioner Vern Bennett said that Mr. Rhoden's request should be given serious consideration, adding that the board would explore the pros and cons of reducing fees and "do our best to get this deal done."

Mayor Dopson said city leaders decided "a

long time ago" to impose user fees and impact fees to pay for increased government services brought about by growth instead of funding infrastructure improvements with property taxes. But as far as Mr. Rhoden's request goes, the mayor said: "We'll research it."

"If we can get it down I'm going to build 12 of them (duplexes)," Mr. Rhoden said.

Mayor Dopson said one of his main concerns with lowering the impact fees would be to entice so many duplex builders that they could overwhelm the city's ability to furnish water and sewer services to their new rental properties.

City Manager Phil Rhoden said he didn't foresee that happening.

"They're just asking for some relief to be competitive, and be competitive in our city," the city manager said. "There are limited locations (zoned for duplexes), so the city won't be overrun with duplex development."

Commissioner Sam Kitching, who joined the board a few months ago, also expressed a desire to work with Mr. Rhoden and other contractors to reduce their fee expenses.

"We do want to help if there's any way possible," Mr. Kitching said, adding, however, that he felt the city had been "fair and logical in setting our impact fees."

He went on to explain that a duplex should be required to generate more impact fees than a single family home because two families live on the same property in a duplex, which is twice as many utility connections and twice as many potential calls to 911 for emergency services.

A woman who answered the phone at Mr. Rhoden's office in Macclenny said the site for the proposed duplexes is north of the Heritage Oaks subdivision off North Lowder Street, near Independence Drive and Golf Course Road.

The tract is owned by Mr. Rhoden's father's company, Golf View Properties, LLC, formed in June 2005 just three days before Mayor Dopson, as president of Pineview Golf and Country Club, the property's former owner, sold the 131 acres for \$4.2 million.

Alliance pledges 'non-political' eye on growth matters

MIKE ANDERSON | PRESS STAFF

Politics in Baker County has a new player that pledges to promote private property rights and economic development and to keep a close eye on state and local elected officials to make sure they share the same goals.

The Baker County Business Alliance promises to neither publicly endorse nor oppose any political candidates or incumbents. But that doesn't mean the group won't try to influence public policy or the outcome of political campaigns.

According to a mission statement posted on the group's website — <http://www.bakercountybusiness.com/> — the BCBA hopes to be "a resource for people looking to Baker County for establishing new businesses and/or expanding existing business."

In the furtherance of its goals, the group promises to post on its website "updates on any local and state legislation that affects property rights and Baker business."

"Furthermore, the Business Alliance will not endorse nor oppose political candidates but instead will give updates on how candidates and politicians view and support or oppose positive economic growth," according to the mission statement.

"Our Alliance will provide the information needed for its members to make their own decisions on who they will support. This information will also be available so our fellow citizens ... can make objective, fact-based decisions on legislation and officials."

Doug Moore, BCBA president, emphasized last week that the alliance will serve "mainly to give property owners an unbiased source of information" about politicians and their positions on issues involving property rights and free enterprise.

He noted that his organization and the Baker County Chamber of Commerce share some of the same goals and he welcomes an opportunity to work with the Chamber to promote business development. But he said the BCBA will remain an independent, autonomous voice without any financial support from governmental bodies.

"We support the chamber," he said. "Still, a lot of the Chamber's funding comes from the county government."

No government funding also means the group doesn't have to comply with Florida's public records laws, which would require disclosures of, among other information, the source(s) of the BCBA's funding.

Mr. Moore, a former dairy farmer in Jacksonville who moved to Baker County 13 years ago and owns 2,400 acres of timberland near Sanderson, said the inspiration for the business alliance stemmed from a decision of the county commission last May denying Oldcastle Southern Group's request to mine sand on land formerly mined by DuPont.

Shortly after Oldcastle's mining application was rejected, Mr. Moore and several other owners of large tracts of land appeared before county commissioners to express concerns about how county land development regulations might restrict the use of their lands, too.

"A lot of property owners were very concerned," Mr. Moore said. "That kind of instigated it (formation of the business alliance)."

The controversy over sand mining coincided with an ongoing revision of county land development regulations, which have yet to be brought to the county commission for a final public hearing.

A grass roots group calling itself the Baker County Conservation Alliance, which originally formed over two years ago to fight a successful battle against a proposed medical waste incinerator, has been pushing for more restrictive regulations, including one to place an outright ban on sand mining and to permit only titanium mining.

Mr. Moore said he could not speak for the business alliance as a whole on the issue, but that he supported Oldcastle's proposal. He said it would be good for the local economy and would solve an environmental problem by using treated wastewater in its mining operation that currently flows into a creek north of Macclenny.

Oldcastle, which presently is waging a legal fight to overturn the county's denial, also had offered to finance the construction of a pipeline to carry the city's effluent to the company's proposed mining site off CR 228 a couple of miles south of I-10.

The BCBA's mission statement doesn't address mining or any other industry that could have an impact on the environment. It only states that the group's members "share the same concerns about economic growth, private property rights and conservation."

Mr. Moore appeared before the county commission in January to express similar concerns about zoning and land use regulations, including impact fees, that he said could be a hindrance to future development.

County Commission Chairman Jimmy Anderson invited Mr. Moore to provide specific information about any county zoning or land use regulations that he felt should be changed to encourage economic development and expansion of job opportunities. Mr. Moore told commissioners he fully intended to do that.

Adam Giddens, the only commissioner who voted in favor of the Oldcastle mining application last year, said he didn't know much about the BCBA other than what Mr. Moore told him but he said it sounds as though it could be a positive force for "encouraging economic growth."

"Anything that organizes to promote economic growth is just another arm" to help expand job opportunities and businesses in Baker County, Mr. Giddens said. "I think, overall, it's a good thing."

Other officers of the alliance are: Dwight Jones, vice president, owner of a septic tank business and rental properties; John Kennedy, treasurer, a retired banker; and Hunter Brant, secretary, whose family owns 2,500 acres of forested land north of Sanderson.

Directors are: Jack Baker, manager of the Florida Farm Bureau in Baker County; Kirk Gravelle, a financial adviser and president of the Baker County Republican Club; and Chris Gazes, land owner and developer.

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Budget: funds for re-entry prison

From page 1

"His priority this year is probably the digital," said Ms. Richardson. "He doesn't have anything else really new this year. I believe to some degree that [digital] will be funded. In the future, I think he wants to see us doing some things without textbooks. But we are finding the digital textbooks are not really any cheaper, plus the cost of the device."

Small school districts could also receive a \$1.37 million hike in "sparsity" funding, Mr. Doolin said. Mrs. Richardson said that would mean about \$53,000 for Baker County schools, a jump of nearly 8 percent.

She said the district's "base" funding was recommended to increase by an estimated \$339,000, or 1.8 percent, compared to a 3.2 jump statewide; and funding for things like teachers, supplies and buses rose about \$198,000 under the governor's budget plan.

Mr. Doolin also noted Gov. Scott recommended about \$80 million statewide for facility maintenance, renovations and repairs.

"Of special interest is the recommendation for Fixed Capital Outlay Funding — \$80 million for public schools and \$9.3 million for charter schools, reversing a trend of providing significant construction funding to charter schools," reads Mr. Doolin's e-mail.

That's good news for Baker County High School, which has chronic heating and air conditioning problems. Mrs. Richardson said the funding will "help tremendously."

Small rural communities like Baker County benefit from an extensive number of grant programs, and "it appears on the whole that

funding for these programs was protected," Mr. Doolin said.

There were increases to some specific funding streams for the county government, however, including money for "fiscally-constrained" counties and from the state's "revenue-sharing" program, in which state funds are redirected to local governments based on a formula contained in state statute.

The governor's budget wish list also shows \$5 million more for a drinking water facility construction loan program, but about \$2.3 million less for small county wastewater treatment grants. Funds for invasive plant control rose by \$3 million. Transportation disadvantaged funding was up \$1.2 million but the Medicaid portion of the program was cut \$1.6 million.

The governor also recommended a reduction for one of two road improvement programs for small counties, the Small County Road Assistance Program or SCRAP. But it was coupled with a \$16.5 million increase for the Small County Outreach Program, or SCOP, which also benefits road projects.

The county transportation grants program took a hit as well, by \$26.6 million, as did the home energy assistance grant program and library cooperative grants program by \$500,000.

Ginny Bird, director of the New River Library Cooperative, which counts Emily Taber library in Macclenny as a member, said the cooperatives major funding stream, the State Aid to Libraries program, was recommended at current year levels.

That means Baker County's public library would receive some \$52,000 under Gov. Scott's plan. She said funding for library staff training, "to keep them abreast of the latest developments," was reduced, however.

The sheriff's office could see more money for training and other support programs, if the legislature agrees to fund the governor's priorities.

Brian Bishop, the sheriff's head of administration, said the governor's spending plan mainly addresses funding for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other state-level law enforcement agencies. But, he said, "the recommendations do include upgrading the criminal history system, funding a biometric identification system and more money for the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Trust Fund."

"All of these will benefit us indirectly as we do access and utilize these systems and services often; and the training trust fund does afford training that we can take advantage of. While this does not provide any funding directly to us, it does provide support that we need in our operation day-to-day."

After years of shrinking the size of the state's workforce, the governor is recommending merit-based bonuses of \$2500 and \$5000 for the state's roughly 114,000 personnel. His budget would also eliminate 1233 state jobs, more than 1100 of which are vacant today.

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St. Mary's group refocuses

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Shell, who co-chairs the committee.

Among the new goals tentatively added to the committee's strategic plan were forming a nonprofit watershed association to assume outreach and education initiatives and accept donations. The St. Mary's River watershed includes all the water bodies — creeks, streams, wetlands — that feed into the river.

As a quasi-governmental organization, the management committee does not have the nonprofit tax status needed to solicit charitable pledges.

"We can and do educate," said Ms. Varn of issues affecting the river's health. "The issue is time. We have many other obligations, as you can see from the list of strategies."

Other strategies added during the meeting address the following:

- Water quality monitoring and reporting by public agencies.

- Setbacks for septic tanks within the river corridor and its tributaries.

- Working with media outlets to boost local knowledge of river protection activities.

- Soliciting assistance in developing a St. Mary's River ecology/stewardship curriculum in local schools.

- Environmentally friendly stewardship of privately owned lands.

- Hosting a river conference in connection with the annual river cleanup event.

- Creating a recreation plan for the river corridor.

The river cleanup is coming up on March 22 and the committee hopes to expand the effort by adding more sites and "site captains" to oversee the litter removal by volunteers at those locations.

Anyone interested in participating is urged to contact Greg Sheppard at (904) 314-2887. There will be a celebration following the morning cleanup at White Oak Plantation with food and refreshments.

For more information about the river committee, please visit www.saintmarysriver.org.

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Is seen with stolen TV

The sheriff's department arrested a Sanderson man and charged him with breaking into a neighbor's residence the morning of February 14 and stealing a television valued at \$600.

Dekimby Hogan, 21, was positively identified by neighbors who live on Circle G. Lane as the person seen running out of a wooded area with the 50-inch flat-screen TV and placing it in what turned out to be a gold-colored 1993 Oldsmobile registered to his brother. He then drove from the area and the unit was not recovered.

Victim Erit Myers told Deputy Brandon Kiser he was away from his residence on Gaskins Circle north of Sanderson about 15 minutes before returning about 10:40 to find a rear door forced open and the television missing.

When officers were interviewing Mr. Myers, they received a tip from the neighbors who later picked out Mr. Hogan from a photo line-up.

The suspect was picked up later that day driving the Oldsmobile and questioned at county jail. He denied involvement and insisted to investigators that he was visiting with a cousin.

The suspect was also charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana found in his sock while being booked at county jail.

In a second recent case, police have no immediate suspects in a burglary at a Macclenny residence during a 24-hour period ending the evening of February 16 while the owner was away.

Maria Davis told Deputy Daryl Mobley she returned to find several window screens askew and damaged, and the likely point of entry into her house on Joan St. was via a rear window.

Tebow-Fusion

Bob Tebow of Jacksonville (Tim's father) will be the featured speaker at the "Tebow-Fusion" event the evening of March 7 at the First Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary.

Proceeds will benefit the First Coast Women's Services of Baker County, a pro-life counseling service for pregnant women with headquarters on South 5th St. in Macclenny.

The theme will be "Leading the Next Generation" and dress is casual with your favorite sports jersey. The event starts at 7 pm.

For ticket and other information, phone Lori Dugan at 259-2585 or contact her at ldugan@fcws.org

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From left: Kylie Carter, Taylor Bloxham and the cast of Broadway in Baker sing "Sugar Pie Honey Bunch."

Final week for 'Broadway'

After a very successful first week, Broadway in Baker: Country, Rhythm and Blues gets ready for their final run at the high school. The show is very different from the previous musical revues in that it uses a live band for the country section. Audiences enjoyed

the new twist. The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. There are reserved seats in the first four rows for just \$10 by calling BCHS at 259-6286. General admission tickets are \$5 and on sale at the door.

Great country songs from Hank Williams, Willie Nelson, Taylor Swift, Lata Antebellum, Tammy Wynette and Elvis mix with R&B classics from Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops and The Supremes.

Alleges battery by fellow worker

Deputies filed criminal complaints the past week in two battery cases, one of them involving employees at Northeast Florida State Hospital.

Jose Cabassa, 54, told Deputy Jacob Satterwhite he was accosted by fellow employee Jeffrey Daniel, 36, outside an office the afternoon of February 11.

Mr. Cabassa said he was approached about 5:30 by a Mr. Daniel, who was allegedly irate over what was written about him in a recent report about an unspecified incident that resulted in disciplinary action.

The victim said he was pushed after walking around Mr. Daniel outside his office. Both men are from Jacksonville.

The accused denied the incident when questioned by Deputy Satterwhite, insisting he tries to avoid Mr. Cabassa following their earlier confrontation.

In a second case, Deputy John Minkel said he filed battery complaints against both parties to a fracas that took place in the late afternoon of February 14 off CR 127 at Natalie Lane in the north county.

Dylan Hurst, 18, told the officer he was struck by Sherrie Falagan, 36, during an argument over money owed to her. He also said the woman, who is a neighbor and his uncle's girlfriend, accused him of taking empty beer cans from her property.

Ms. Falagan countered that Mr. Hurst followed her into her residence and shoved her to the floor. Other witnesses also backed both versions of events.

DUI arrests follow minor traffic stops

County deputies charged two Glen St. Mary motorists with drunk driving after stopping their vehicles for minor traffic violations an hour apart during the early morning of February 16.

Tracy Motes, 42, was at the wheel of a southbound 1990 Chevrolet pickup on Lowder St. shortly after midnight when she was pulled over by Deputy Jacob Satterwhite for having a headlight out.

The deputy said he detected the odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle and Ms. Motes when he questioned her. She failed a field sobriety test and submitted to a urine test after two breathalyzer readings showed her below the level considered intoxicated. She allegedly admitted to smoking crack after Deputy Satterwhite found a glass smoking pipe in her jacket pocket.

Ms. Motes was booked at county jail for DUI and misdemeanor possession of the pipe.

About an hour later, deputies Daryl Mobley and Justin Yingling stopped a 2002

Chevrolet pickup driven by Vincent Moore, 49, for having an expired license decal. After noting that the driver and vehicle interior smelled of alcohol, they asked him to submit to field sobriety testing in the parking lot of Memorial Stadium in Macclenny.

Mr. Moore failed the test and refused to submit to a breath test at county jail. Deputies Yingling and Chris Walker arrested William Curran, 50, and Timothy Grantham, 48, both of Glen, for disorderly intoxication the afternoon of February 11.

They were called to the scene near Wendy's on South 6th in Macclenny about 5:30 after a report that the two were staggering in the roadway. Deputy Walker noted that Mr. Curran had fallen into a water-filled roadside ditch and that Mr. Grantham was unable to help him out of it.

He also said this marked the fourth time deputies have dealt with the pair for being intoxicated and walking in traffic lanes.

Jackie Esworthy was killed by a drunk driver one week after her high school graduation.

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Man sought on warrant had illegal pills and meth

Sheriff's deputies arrested a north Glen St. Mary man on drug possession charges after they went to his residence the morning of February 14 to arrest him on a warrant.

Deputy Clements Leo said he chased down Richard Johnson, 28, after he ran from a rear door at his residence on Andrew Raulerson Rd. about 10:30 am and fell to the ground after colliding with a clothes line.

The officer and Deputy Matt Riegel tried unsuccessfully earlier to get Mr. Johnson to answer the door, and returned to the address after Deputy Leo confronted the suspect's nephew who reportedly had been sent outside to see if the officers were still in the vicinity.

The deputies found a package of needles, a bottle cap with methamphetamine residue and a prescription bottle with both Xanax and Oxycodone on the suspect. He was booked for felony possession of the pills, along with misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest.

Mr. Johnson was also served with the warrant for domestic battery.

The same two deputies arrested Justin Cooper, 31, two days later for felony possession of Oxycodone and possession of two small packages of methamphetamine.

They responded about 7 am to the suspect's residence on Hassie Johns Rd. in the north county after his father became alarmed about his son's hallucinogenic behavior. Deputy Leo said Mr. Cooper believed that several armed people were after him and staged in nearby woods.

In other recent arrests, Brittany Siemering, 21, of Macclenny was charged the afternoon of February 11 with attempting to smuggle cigarettes into county jail.

Investigator Chris Volz said she was caught in the act via video while in a room where she earlier had been interrogated about the theft of electronic tablets. She was charged with those offenses as well.

Deputy Marc Heath arrested Liza Watkins, 35, at her residence on Jonny Harvey Rd. north of Sanderson in the late morning of February 15. Ms. Watkins was wanted on a Duval County warrant for forgery.

Sharon Jackson, 55, of Jacksonville was taken to jail early on February 15 when Deputy Jacob Satterwhite learned she was wanted in Baker County for violating probation for trafficking in drugs.

He stopped Ms. Jackson in west Macclenny about 2:30 am for having an inoperable headlight on her vehicle.

Deputy Michael Antonini arrested Larry Bell Jr., 40, at his residence on North Boulevard in Macclenny the evening of February 13. He was wanted on a state warrant for violating probation for burglary.

Mr. Anderson was also charged with trespassing because he was warned away from the property earlier. Similar warrants were issued to two persons with him that evening, Mandie James, 25, and a 17-year-old male, both also from Macclenny.

In a fraud case, a 69-year-old Macclenny woman reported to Deputy Leo on February 20 that her TD Bank card was used at a local ATM four times since mid-December.

The three other times were in January, records show, and the fraudulent withdrawals totaled \$1240. The sheriff's department was anticipating video footage of the transactions.

Shoplifter had plenty of cash

A Maxville man was charged with attempting to steal numerous items from the Macclenny Walmart on February 14 despite having what was described as "a large sum of money" on his person.

Jonathan Padgett-Godwin, 25, was followed by a store employee through several departments that afternoon about 4 pm and stopped when he attempted to leave without paying for merchandise he stashed on his person.

Deputy Clements Leo said the inventory of stolen items ranged from cologne to cell phone accessories, sunglasses and a knife. The value was tallied at \$237.

The deputy did not specify how much money Mr. Padgett-Godwin had at the time, only that it was turned over to a relative. A criminal complaint was filed in lieu of his arrest because of a leg injury, the report noted.

Mr. Anderson was also charged with trespassing because he was warned away from the property earlier. Similar warrants were issued to two persons with him that evening, Mandie James, 25, and a 17-year-old male, both also from Macclenny.

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Tips on blackberry plants

ALICIA LAMBORN
HORTICULTURE AGENT
 reporter@bakercountypress.com

When I was young, picking blackberries was a summer treat and scratches were just part of the fun. Today, there are many new varieties of blackberries grown for their large, tasty fruit and even lack of thorns. If you're considering blackberries as part of your edible landscape, here's what you need to know:

When selecting blackberry plants, growers typically have many options to choose from — erect vs. trailing and thorny vs. thornless. In general, erect cultivars are easier to grow with plants spaced 2-4 feet apart, while trailing cultivars are spaced 3-5 feet apart and require support.

Blackberries range from completely self-fruitful to completely self-unfruitful. Erect cultivars are generally self-fruitful meaning they don't require a pollinator. But planting several different cultivars is usually recommended to increase yields, particularly if there are no wild-types nearby.

Brazos is one of the most popular erect secul-

tions with high yields in north Florida. Thornless Apache, Choctaw and 'Ouachita are also popular. Before planting, select a site with good air and water drainage by avoiding low-lying areas. Blackberries perform best at a soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5, so consider a soil test from the Extension Office which can determine if changes are needed. Planting is best done from December through February. Clip bare-root plants to about 6 inches and plant with crown just above the soil level.

Containerized plants should also be set slightly above soil level. Always mulch your blackberries to retain moisture and prevent weeds, but never apply fertilizer at planting, waiting 4-6 weeks after or until spring if planting during winter. In general, blackberries do not require much fertilizer which can burn shallow roots or even kill plants.

If all goes well after planting, you should start getting fruit the following year. For more information on care of blackberries and variety selection, contact the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension Office at (904) 259-3520 or email alamborn@ufl.edu.

Workshop on mushrooms

The Baker County Extension Office is offering a free presentation and demonstration on how to grow oyster mushrooms for a great nutritional food option.

You can also choose to grow your own by purchasing a take-home mushroom starter kit for \$15 while supplies last.

The workshop will be held on Friday, March 14 from 10 am to noon at the Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center) in west Macclenny.

Please call (904) 259-3520 to pre-register for the class or stop by the office today to reserve your mushroom starter kit.

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OBITUARIES

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FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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‘Woody’ Barber dies at age 82

Woodrow (Woody) J. Barber, 82, of Macclenny died on February 11, 2014 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Climax, GA on January 7, 1932 to the late William Asa Barber and Pearl E. Adams Barber, and was preceded in death by his parents and brothers William Everette (Aylean) Barber and Leo (Mildred) Barber, sister Trudie (Charlie) Ritter and son Johnny Barber.

Mr. Barber served in the Army during the Korean War and received the Purple Heart. He was a member of Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny and enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening, restoring antique tractors, and spending time with his family and friends.

Woody is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 48 years, Eleanor Barber; daughters LeAnne (Tom) Martin, Carol (Chuck) Alsbrook; sons Woodrow William (Bill) Barber and James Matthew (Schell) Barber; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; sisters, Mary (Billy) Mote, Myrtice (Bo) Finuff, Geneva (Buddy) Day and Virginia (Bobby) Hernanes.

The funeral service was held on Monday, February 17 at 11 am at Arlington Park Funeral Home in Jacksonville. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Northeast Florida Community Hospice or the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny.

Danny Boutwell, BCHS principal

William “Danny” Jerry Boutwell, 70, of Glen St. Mary died on February 17, 2014 at Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital. He was born in Beaumont, Mississippi on November 6, 1943 to Leola Elaine Jordan Boutwell and the late William Jerry Boutwell Sr. He was a resident of Baker County since 1967 when he became a member of the First United Methodist Church. Danny earned a master’s degree, which helped with his career goals of being a teacher and later a principal.



William Boutwell

Mr. Boutwell had a passion for education, retiring from the Baker County school system after many years of dedicated service. His career began in 1979 as a physical education teacher, coach and D.C.T. teacher until 1984. From 1985 to 1993 he was the principal of Baker County High School, including the period leading up to construction of the new school in Glen St. Mary in 1989. He also had a passion for helping young adults grow in their athletic ability by coaching the high school basketball team for many years. Danny enjoyed playing golf, helping others, and most of all spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his father.

Danny is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Susan Boutwell of Glen; mother Leola E. Boutwell of Richton, MS; daughters Shelly Rhoden of Macclenny and Danna (Jim) Karkazis of Chicago; brother Allen (Cynthia) Boutwell of Beaumont, MS; sister Brenda (Robby) Carr of Houston, TX; grandchildren Jillian Hodges and Jarren Hodges, Caroline Rhoden, Jordan and Stellen Karkazis.

The funeral service will be held on Friday February 21 at 2 pm at the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny with Pastor David Thomas officiating. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 20 from 5-8 pm at the church. V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Infant Kenneth Brenjani-Tate

Baby Boy Kenneth Levy Brenjani-Tate died on February 11, 2014 in the arms of his parents at St. Vincent’s Medical Center Southside. Baby Kenneth was born earlier that day in Jacksonville and was the son of Kenneth Julian Tate Sr. and Mehrissadat Viola Brenjani. He was a blessing to many people and will be missed forever. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Julian A. Tate and maternal great grandmother Aline S. Brown.



Kenneth Brenjani-Tate

He is survived by his loving parents of Jacksonville; brother Kenneth Julian Tate Jr.; paternal grandparents Patricia A. (H. Oliver) Welch of Fernandina; maternal grandparents Vickie V. Brown and Seyed Mansoor Brenjani, both of Macclenny; uncle John Levy Brown.

A private service will be held at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services in Macclenny with Pastor Fred Raulerson officiating.

Lonnie Combs, 67, of Lake City

Lonnie Jackson Combs, 67, of Lake City died peacefully Monday, February 17, 2014 at his residence surrounded by his family. Mr. Combs was born March 6, 1946 in Lake City to the late Russell Jackson Combs and Ella Corine Raulerson Combs. He worked for the Fruit Grower Express for 40 years. He was a member of the TCU local 6553 and a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife Lanita Todd Combs of Lake City; daughters Ronda Hartley (Mark) of Glen St. Mary, Khristen Michelle Douglas (Ben) Norfolk, Va.; sons Gregory Combs (Julie) of Glen St. Mary, Tony Rizer (Dawn) of Lake Butler, Robert Barker Jr. (Robin) of Denver, CO; nine grandchildren and one great granddaughter; brothers Louis Combs (Mary) and Wendell Ray Combs (Janice) of Taylor, Donald Neal Combs (Kay) of Macclenny; sister Lavin Baxter of Raiford.

The funeral service will be held Friday, February 21 at 11 am in the chapel of Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler with Rev. Ralph Durham officiating. Burial will follow at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Family will receive friends at the funeral home for visitation on Thursday, February 20 from 6 to 8 pm.

I-night revival

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ will host a one-night revival on February 28 with Apostle Dr. Bobby Orange of Jacksonville as the speaker.

For more information call Randolph Ruise at 904-729-6536.

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
CR 127 N. of Sanderson
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm
Pastor Allen Crews
Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford

Funeral February 14 for Mr. Caldwell

Alexander Joseph Caldwell Jr., 63, of Macclenny, died on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Born in California to the late AJ and Ruby Lee Caldwell, Mr. Caldwell was a 40-year Macclenny resident. He was a retired JEA plant operator who loved baseball and enjoyed coaching and umpiring for Baker County Little League. He also served as a Little League board member. He was a member of the Marietta Church of Christ and loved spending time with his family and friends.



Alexander Caldwell

He is survived by wife of 39 years, Cynthia Barber Caldwell; son Corey (Ashley) Caldwell of Macclenny; daughters Amy (Joe) Crawford and Christy (Shannon) Burned, both of Macclenny; sisters Gladys Certain of Corpus Christi, TX, Mary (Harold) Gross of Hillsborough, OH, and Patty (Jim) Story of Hendersonville, TN; grandchildren Hunter, Haleigh, Tyler, Carson, Camron, Mallory, Aiden, Alexis and Callie, due in March; many family and friends.

A celebration of his life was held at 4 pm on Friday, February 14 in the chapel of Forbes Funeral Home in Macclenny with Minister Jamie Rhoden and Elder Steve Fraser officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Mr. Caldwell’s honor to Baker County Little League or American Renal Associates.

Funeral Friday for Shannon Miller

Crystal Shanna “Shannon” Miller, 39, of Glen St. Mary died Saturday, February 15, at Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital in Macclenny. She was born in Gainesville and resided in Glen St. Mary and Macclenny all of her life. She was a certified nursing assistant at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center for over eight years. She was a member of the Cuyler Baptist Church and enjoyed bluegrass music, Gator football and working in her flower bed.



Crystal Miller

Mrs. Miller is survived by her husband Cleveland M. Miller; daughters Carrisa Miller and Chelsea Miller; parents James and Gail Wilkerson, all of Glen St. Mary; brothers Larkey Wilkerson and Jerry Wilkerson of Glen and Wesley Wilkerson of Sanderson; special aunt Judy Harris of Macclenny.

The funeral service will be conducted at 11 am on Friday, February 21 at her church with Pastor Billy Worthington officiating. Interment will be in Oak Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 pm Thursday, February 20, at the church. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

Lettie Register of Glen dies at 91

Lettie Crews Register, 91, of Glen St. Mary died on February 18, 2014 at her home. She was born to Leighton and Zephia “Babe” Crews on May 19, 1922, and was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Hamp Register, her son Leamon “Pee Wee” Register and her parents. Mrs. Lettie made her living with her husband on their family farm, raising cattle and growing timber, tobacco and garden vegetables. She drove a bus for Baker County schools for over 25 years. She enjoyed cooking, gospel music and taking care of her grandchildren. She was a member of the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny, the Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Flu-cured Tobacco Growers.



Lettie Register

Mrs. Register is survived by daughter Glenda Register of Glen St. Mary; sons Sonny (Peggy) Register and Terrell (Sally) Register, both of Sanderson; sisters Vera Eddy of Callahan and Lydia (Everett) Davis of Bryceville; sisters-in-law Minnie Crews of Glen St. Mary and Imogene Register of Jacksonville; ten grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The funeral service will be conducted at 11 am Thursday, February 20 at her church with Revs. David Thomas and Tim Thomas officiating, assisted by Rev. Jim Bob Register. Interment will be in South Prong Cemetery, Sanderson. Visitation will be from 6-8 pm on Wednesday, February 19 at the church. Guerry Funeral Home of Macclenny is in charge of arrangements.

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

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

Jesus answered, “Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” John 3:5

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

Calvary Baptist Church
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. | a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com •• 259-4529

Saint Peter’s in the Glen
ANGLICAN CHURCH
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
7:00 pm Wednesday Services
A mile South of I-10 on CR 125
Glen St. Mary, Florida

First Baptist Church of Sanderson
CR 229 S., Sanderson FL
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sun. Morning Worship . 11:00 am
Sun. Evening Worship . 6:00 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study . 7:00 pm
Dr. Roy Vining

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

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

First United Methodist Church
Loving God
Loving People
Serving Our Community
Come Join Us
9371. 5th St. (SR225) Macclenny, FL - Sunday Worship 11am

THE LORD’S CHURCH
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 & Raye Griffin

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Pre-Need Counselor
Embalmer & Notary
Email: fkpjr@aol.com

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

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420 E. Macclenny Ave. **GUERRY FUNERAL HOME**
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In loving memory of
Bulah Mae Burnham
8/12/40-2/23/13

Mom, it’s been over a year now since God and His Angels called you away. Oh, how the Angels rejoiced as you walked through those Pearly Gates that day! Mom, when they said you were going to die I refused to believe it could be true. How could I allow myself to even imagine saying goodbye to you. Mom, you were an Angel here on earth. I learned so very much from you. You were so gentle and so kind, your smile would always see me through. You taught me how to love unconditionally, and how to be my very best in all I do. You gave your all to God and your family, never once stopping to think about you. You were more than a mother; you were my best friend and a great listener, too. Oh, how I miss our special talks, and all the fun things we used to do. Mom, I can never say goodbye to you, because I could never bear the pain. Instead, I say “I love you, Mom” until we meet again.

LOVE AND MISS YOU,
MELISSA GAIL

Monthly sing

The Baxter Community Baptist Church will host its monthly gospel sing on Friday, February 21 starting with supper at 7 pm.



In loving memory of
Susan Hodges Downey
2/22/56-5/29/07

Living our lives without you is the hardest part of all. You were such a giving person; when we needed someone, you were always there. Your smile and your visits were always great. I remember your baby and growing up years, your siblings (quite a handful, but looking back, such a joy to remember). Your memories and all the love you gave – great. We all miss you so, me especially. Have a Happy Birthday with Jesus and all.

I LOVE YOU SO,
MOM

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In loving memory of
Carol Ann Dugger
11/14/59-2/24/11

Three years have passed since you were taken away from us. We miss you every day of our lives. The memories are so precious-every one; it’s like they were made just a short time ago. Your babies are growing up so fast; you would be so proud of them. I try to bring you up to them when they are around, just like you would have wanted me to. You said to never let them forget you, and I haven’t. Know you will always have a special place in my heart, no matter what I do in life.

YOUR BEST FRIEND AND PARTNER
TIMMY

Thanks so much

The family of Alex Caldwell would like to thank everyone –family, friends and community—for all the food, prayers, visits and support during our difficult time. We cannot name each one who was there for us, but you know who you are and we love you all. We are so blessed to live in a community where people help each other in time of need. A special thanks to Macclenny Nursing and Rehab for the wonderful care Alex received during his stay there.

Cindy, Amy and Joe, Corey and Ashley, Christy and Shannon and families

Sing March 1st

An outdoor gospel sing will be held from noon to 5 pm on March 1 at the Elohim Church on CR 229 north in Sanderson.

Featured singers include Gail Moore, Southern Joy and Calvary’s Cry.



In loving memory of
Bulah Burnham
8/12/40-2/23/13

God saw you getting tired, when a cure was not to be. He wrapped you in His arms and whispered, “Come to me.” You didn’t deserve what you went through, so He gave you needed rest. God’s garden must be beautiful; He only takes the best.

LOVE, KATIE



In loving memory of
Bulah Burnham
8/12/40-2/23/13

I wish I could hold you in my arms once more, that just for a moment God would reopen the door.

LOVE AND MISS YOU, MOM,
MYRTLE

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EVANGELIST GABRIELE GILPIN
Founder and Director of Soaring Eagle Ministries, Inc.
February 20 at 7:00 pm
Mt. Zion Church
Come and join us as we welcome this great woman of God and enjoy the benefit of her spiritual gifts, her knowledge and experience in equipping the bride of Christ to make herself ready for the soon return of our Lord and Saviour, and occupying until He appears.
14670 SR 121 North, Macclenny
For information call 259-4461

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“A Place to Belong”
We would love to connect with you here at CFT to help you grow in your relationship with Christ and serve our community! Christian Fellowship Temple is an independent Pentecostal church located at 251 West Ohio Ave. in Macclenny, Florida.
For more information or to find out how to contact us, visit our website at www.christianfellowshiptemple.com
Like us on Facebook!
CFT SERVICE TIMES:
Wednesday, February 19th
6:00-6:45 Family Dinner
7:00 Adult Worship Services
7:00 Youth Worship Services
Sunday, February 23rd
10:00 Sunday School (All Ages)
11:00 Morning Worship Service
11:00 Children’s Church
6:00 Evening Worship
connect.grow.serve.



Photo courtesy of FBLA

Many FBLA students take first, second place honors at event

Baker County High School’s Future Business Leaders of America students participated in the District IV performance competition and awards ceremony at Florida State College on January 31. Many local students placed first or second place in their events as follows: First place winners were Megan Anderson and Chelsea Sanderson in banking and financial systems, Kaleb Carter in business calculations, Tyler Brooke Cole in business law, Taylor Carrington in business procedures, Brianna Graham and Jessica Padgett in desktop publishing, Caleb Griffin and Jake Koberger in emerging business issues, Ty Hyatt in FBLA principals and procedures, Kaitlyn Corder in health care administration, Kaitlye Murphy in impromptu speaking, Maci McDuffie in introduction to business, Samuel Oyinloye in information technology, Danajia (Naji) Williams in job interview, Andrea Clark, Haleigh Crawford and Abigail Rice in management decisions; Alan Hodges and Taylor Dopson in marketing. Second place winners were Whitney Moore in accounting I, Angelica Griggs in personal finance, Rose Thompson in public speaking I and Ms. Williams in public speaking II. “The majority of these students are sophomores and competed for the first time this year,” said FBLA sponsor Stephanie Wheeler. “We could not be more proud of our students and the manner in which they represent Baker County High and the school district.”

Toxic round-up March 1

The annual toxic round-up in Baker County is scheduled for Saturday, March 1 behind the courthouse in Macclenny from 9 am-3 pm.

The public is urged to bring hazardous household materials to the site for free disposal. For small businesses, there is a fee.

Personnel from the county road department and a collection contractor from the Department of Environmental Protection will be on hand to

receive a variety of chemicals, materials and substances that can pose a threat to the environment if they are improperly disposed of.

- Items that will be accepted include, but are not limited to:
- Aerosol cans
 - Batteries
 - Computers, TVs and household electronics
 - Fluorescent lamps
 - Household cleaners
 - Insecticides
 - Paint and paint products

• Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications

• Used oils, lubricants and filters.

All containers must be labeled. Explosives, reactives and radioactive or infectious wastes are not accepted. For more information and a complete list of accepted items, phone Robert Fletcher at the road department, 275-2373. For information on fees charged small business, phone 352-334-0440.

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12 gauge Maverick pump shotgun 234-3" 5150; 12 gauge 234" Stevens double barrel \$200; Bolt 22 Remington model Targetmaster rifle \$1000; Bolt action 22 Cal Higgins 15 shot cylinder rifle \$100; practically new (used 3 times) pump mowder \$100; heavy duty steel propane cooker \$100. 259-5901 or 352-222-8470. 2/20p

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Fishing Barge 21' Sun Tracker. Pay off or take over payments; golf cart, runs good \$2000; sofa and chair \$500; exercise machine \$250. 259-2236. 2/20p-27p

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Absolute Auction. Ponce de Leon, FL 11 +/- acres, 21,000 +/- sq. ft. of improvements near US Hwy 90, offered in 7 parcels. February 27, 1:00pm, gtauctions.com, 205.326.0833. Granger, Thagard & Associates, Inc. G.W.Thagard - AU2046, AB2100, BK0309116. 2/20p

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SPORTS

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Cats' first season win

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The Wildcats rebounded from their opening game loss with a decisive 6-1 home victory over the Orange Park Raiders on February 13, bringing the baseball team's record to 1-1 as they enter week two of the season.

The BCHS pitchers combined to throw a one-hitter with Garrett Yarborough picking up the win after throwing four hitless innings.

While the pitching kept the Raiders from mounting any offense, Baker County's bats were popping early and the squad jumped out to a 5-0 lead through the first three innings.

Dylan Hall, Dylan Rowe and Mikal Flores connected with extra base hits, with Rowe and

Flores hitting triples. The offensive production allowed the team to play loose after the tight season opening loss, coach Fred Matricardi said.

"It's baby steps," he said of his team's improved play in its second game. "We're hoping to get better each time out."

The home win came two days after the Cats lost the season opener 3-2 on a walk-off double against the Eagle's View Warriors at FSCJ.

The team controlled the game early with pitcher Jordan Kennedy throwing eight strike outs through four scoreless innings. The coaches had him on a strict 60-pitch pitch count and he was pulled when he reached the limit despite his effectiveness on the mound.

Kennedy left the game with the Cats leading 2-0.

The Warriors tied the game

in the bottom of the fifth inning by scoring two runs without a hit. The Wildcats allowed the game-winning double in the bottom of the seventh to drop their first game of the year.

Coach Matricardi said his team didn't hit well and it allowed the Warriors to hang around until the walk-off hit. Flores led Baker County's offense as he connected with two of the team's four hits.

The Cats will continue trying to grow as a team as they have three games in five days during their second week of action.

They hosted West Nassau on February 18 (see next week's edition for a recap) before traveling to Episcopal on February 20. The team will close out its busy week when it welcomes visiting Heritage (Ga.) for a Saturday morning game on February 22.



Photos by Jud Johnson. At left, Dylan Rowe hits a triple. At right, Zach Rafuse on the mound.



Boys top Ponte Vedra 66-54 win prior to semifinals

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The BCHS Wildcats pulled away from the hosting Ponte Vedra Sharks in overtime to win 66-54 in the Class 5A regional quarterfinals on February 13 and advance to the regional semifinals against Bishop Kenny on February 18.

The Cats outscored the District 4-5A champions 16-4 in the extra period to run away with the 12-point win after regulation ended in a 50-all tie.

The team held the Sharks scoreless for more than six minutes in overtime and went seven of eight from the free-throw line to break the game open. Charles Ruise Jr. capped off his game-high 31-point performance with an emphatic dunk as the closing seconds ticked down to punctuate the dramatic victory.

"We felt like we were better conditioned going down the stretch," coach Charles Ruise said about the team's overtime period. "We had things going positively for us defensively and we took control of the game."

The close back-and-forth game featured five ties or lead changes in the final four minutes of the fourth quarter.

The Cats held a three-point lead with less than a minute remaining until Ponte Vedra's play-making guard Jackson Johnson drained a shot while

being fouled in the process, but he missed a subsequent foul shot. The Cats grabbed the rebound, but they struggled to find any room to move the ball down court. An errant pass went directly into Johnson's hands under the basket, who made the easy lay-up to give the Sharks a 50-49 lead with 28 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Cats quickly drove the ball down court and Ruise drew a foul to earn two shots from the free-throw line with 14 seconds left in regulation. He missed the first attempt, which was his first missed foul shot of the second half. He sunk the second shot to tie the game at 50.

Baker County's defense held strong and forced a poor shot from Johnson that sent the game into overtime.

Ruise dominated the game after halftime and scored 24 of his 31 points after the break. He attacked the basket and drew fouls on Ponte Vedra, which resulted in the Sharks being in foul trouble late in the game and overtime. The Cats took advantage of the host team's foul woes and made 20 of their 26 free-throw attempts in the game.

"We felt like we could cash in at the free-throw line," coach Ruise said. "With Charles attacking the basket, it does two things: We're either scoring or we're putting their players in foul trouble."

In addition to Ruise's high-scoring night, Brian Walton and Jesse Gardner both added 13 points.

The playoff victory over Ponte Vedra sets up Baker County's rematch against the Bishop Kenny Crusaders on February 18 [see related story on page 15]. The District 3-5A rivals split the two games they played during the season.

The Cats ran away with a 57-42 win in the teams' regular season meeting on January 24, but they lost 62-61 in overtime in the finals of the district tournament on February 7.

Coach Ruise said his team would try cutting down on mistakes that plagued the squad in its heart-breaking tournament loss. He said the defense has to do a better job covering Bishop Kenny's outside shooters while the offense has to convert on its scoring opportunities. If the team can do that, coach Ruise said, the boys would have a chance of walking out of Bishop Kenny's gym with the victory.

"We feel ready and prepared," he said. "We feel like it's our time to show them we're right there with them. I respect their program and what they've accomplished, but we feel it's Wildcat time now."

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BK ends Cats' post season run

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The Wildcat boys' basketball season came to an end when they were eliminated from the playoffs with a physical 53-48 road loss to the Bishop Kenny Crusaders in the Class 5A regional semifinals on February 18.

The Cats clawed their way back into the game in the fourth quarter after trailing by nine entering the final frame. The team pulled within one point on a Charles Ruise Jr. three-point play with 44 seconds remaining in the game.

Baker County was forced to foul the Crusaders as the home team was wasting the clock offensively, and they made both foul shots to retake a three-point lead.

Ruise tried to quickly tie the game with a three-point shot, but his attempt didn't fall. Both teams scrambled to grab the rebound and the Crusaders were able to gain possession after a skirmish and call a time out.

Bishop Kenny's Christian

Carlyle sealed the win with about 10 seconds remaining off the inbound pass with an easy lay-up to give him the final two of his team-high 19 points and send the Crusaders to Saturday's regional finals.

Bishop Kenny's first-half three-point shooting put the Cats behind early. The Crusaders made five of their 10 shots from behind the arc in the first half to help give them a four-point halftime lead.

The Crusaders' three-point shooting went quiet during the second half, but Baker County's offense couldn't take advantage of it in the third quarter. The BCHS offense went cold during the third quarter and scored only seven points. The defense held tough, though, and kept the game within reach.

Ruise Jr. took control of the game in the fourth quarter and scored 14 of his game-high 23 points, but it wasn't enough to overcome the deficit. CoCo Jefferson also played well down low and scored 11 points.

Coach Charles Ruise's Wildcat basketball team posted a 23-5 overall season record.

Dyal sets new records in lifting

JON SHUMAKE
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The BCHS boys weightlifting team had a record-breaking performance to help lift the team to a 56-34 victory at the Palatka on February 12 in the team's opening meet of the season.

Dalton Dyal broke school records in the clean and jerk and the total in the 154-pound weight class to earn a first-place finish. Coach Scott McDonald said he expects big things from Dyal this season after his impressive performance in the first meet.

Dyal wasn't the only Wildcat weightlifter to finish atop a weight class, as six other competitors ended the first meet on top. Cody Miller in the 119, Caleb Williford in the 169, Blayne Merchant in the 183, Valdez Jackson in the 199, Hunter Chambers in the 219 and Collyn Green in the 238 class all finished in first place in their respective classes.

In addition to the first-place lifters, the Cats had a slew of athletes finish second or third. The second-place finishers were Louis Handte in the 129, Dalton Williams in the 139, Jarrett Turner in the 154, Ru-

ger Raulerson in the 183, Kaleb Carter in the 199 and Austin Rhoden in the heavyweight division.

Hunter McMahan in the 129, Ty Sikes in the 139 and Brody Crews in the 219 class earned third-place finishes.

The weightlifting team's season will continue on February 19 with the squad's first home meet when the lifters compete against Cedar Creek and Suwannee. The boys will then travel to lift at Oakleaf on February 25.

JV girls softball at 2-1

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The BCHS JV Lady Wildcat softball has gotten off to a hot start with a 2-1 record in the opening games of the new season.

The JV Lady Cats won their opening game 7-2 against the visiting First Coast on February 1. They added another notch to the win column on February 11 later when they defeated Hilliard 11-7.

The only blemish on the team's record thus far came in a close 4-3 loss to Columbia on February 7.

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Boys tennis notches first win over Yulee, girls fall

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
jonshu@live.com

The BCHS tennis teams showed improvement through their second week of play with the boys picking up their first win on February 13 against the visiting Yulee Hornets.

The Baker County boys dominated the meet and disposed of Yulee 6-1. Jared Stafford and Tyler Curry both won their matches 8-1, while Evan Barrett wasn't far behind with an 8-2 victory. Logan Campbell defeated his opponent 8-3. Brach Dukeman's match was a little closer, but he pulled out the win 8-5.

In the doubles, Stafford and Dukeman doubled up their opponents to win 8-4. The boys' lone loss on the day came when Jarrett Barton and Tyler Brown narrowly lost 7-9.

"We were finally able to get into our groove against Yulee," coach Jonathan Barrett said in an email. "The boys' team truly showcased their talents in a well-earned win."

While the boys' team notched that first win of the season, the Lady Cats lost 0-6. Emily Johnson, in only her second ever tennis match, forced her opponent to work hard to the end with a close 6-8 loss. Andrea Clark, Tristan Lauramore and Kate Whitehead all fell to their opponents 0-8.

Both doubles teams, Clark and Lauramore and Whitehead and Johnson, lost 1-8.

Even though the girls were on the losing end of the lopsided meet, coach Barrett said the players continued to show growth from where they started.

"The girls have shown great improvement," he said. "This is the first year for most of them and their dedication to the sport is showing in their drive and consistent improvement."

The successful meet against Yulee came two days after both

teams lost while visiting Fernandina Beach.

The boys were closely edged out by the Pirates 2-4. The Cats easily swept the two doubles matches as Stafford and Dukeman won 8-1 and Barrett and Jonathan Kirkland defeated their opponents 8-2.

The only singles victory came when Stafford pulled out a tight 8-6 win. Barrett and Kirkland both lost hard-fought matches as the former fell 5-8 and the latter lost 4-8. Dukeman and Campbell were both defeated 0-8.

The Lady Cats lost the meet 0-6 with Clark, Lauramore, Whitehead and Johnson all losing their singles matches 0-8. In the doubles, the team of Clark and Lauramore put up a fight but ultimately lost 6-8. The team of Whitehead and Johnson also lost 0-8.

"The tennis teams' seasons

continue with two road meets at Madison on February 18 and Bishop Kenny on February 20. The squads will return home on February 24 when the Cats host Fleming Island.

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Benefit raises \$18K Proceeds to veterans council

JOEL ADDINGTON
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More than 200 guests joined former lieutenant governor Jennifer Carroll and Florida Senator Aaron Bean for a banquet and silent auction Saturday night to benefit the Baker County Veterans Council.

The council, formed in January 2012, helps local veterans and their families in many ways, whether it's driving vets to medical appointments, making home improvements or supplying information and referrals to veterans resources.

Proceeds from the event, dubbed "Heart To Heart" and organized by the Baker County Women's Political Network, were to be split between the veterans council and Wounded Warrior Project, a Jacksonville-based charity focused on injured veterans. But, the network's Karen Love said, Wounded Warrior opted to donate its portion to the council.

The nonprofit group will receive an estimated \$18,000 raised this year, a record figure for Heart To Heart. It's also well above the \$11,000 raised last year for a local youth's medical bills.

"That's a pretty good jump in proceeds," said Ms. Love.

The evening affair on February 15 at the Ag Center was the eighth year for Heart To Heart. Each year the women's political network selects a different cause to support.

The night began about 5:30 with a social and preview of the silent auction items like hunting and fishing trip packages, artwork, cakes and symphony and theatre tickets.

Ms. Love said the final head count for the banquet was 224 including cadets from the high school's JROTC program, who

presented colors at the start of the program.

"The event is always a sell-out, but the waiting list was longer this year," said Ms. Love. "Next year we will probably have to move to a larger venue."

A procession led by the cadets introduced the women's political network president Janet Harvin, its founder and fundraising chair Gedone Prachar, veterans council officials (Commander Milt O'Neil, Executive Officer Larry Porterfield, Treasurer Dan Masterson, Secretary Jim Palleschi and Chaplain John Joseph), Ms. Carroll, who emceed the program, and Sen. Bean, who led an emotional salute to the armed forces.

"I salute and thank the organizations that salute and thank our veterans," said the senator before relaying his father's story.

A paperwork error meant his father missed the D-Day landing and joined the allies later in the war.

"He was scheduled to go out on D-Day with his unit," said Sen. Bean. "He was suited up ready to go in England."

"It's fortunate because over 65 percent of the men that launched on that ship that day didn't come home," he said before getting choked up speaking about his mother, who has been in the hospital of late, growing up with eight siblings and rarely going out to dinner.

"As kids we don't realize there's a bill," said Sen. Bean. "Our country is the same way. We don't realize there's bill associated with freedom. We just take it for granted."

That bill is paid with

the lives of American service men and women, he said. Then the veterans of each branch of military were asked to stand for applause while a festive song from the band, *Second Time Around*, played.

Ms. Carroll, herself a Navy veteran, spoke about the sacrifices of veterans and their families and important role communities play in supporting them after they come home.

The program also featured a Missing Man Ceremony, led by Mr. O'Neil, which honors fallen soldiers.

The silent auction closed the evening about 8 pm.

Ms. Love said a painting donated by Park West Gallery was sold for the most cash, \$400, but the Alhambra Theatre tickets and cakes were bought for "way over their actual value."

The painting, called a limited edition serolithograph by the gallery, was by Shan-Merry of France and titled "La Nuit du Quetzal."

"The cake auction is one of the most fun parts of the auction with many selling for as high as \$150 and more," Ms. Love said.



BCCHS JROTC cadets Hayley Cook (left front), Ashli Knapp and Dustin Smith present the colors. Not visible is cadet Atley Wood.



Milt O'Neil of the veterans council.



More than 200 people attended the banquet and auction.



State Senator Aaron Bean.



Veterans council officers (l-r Jim Palleschi, Larry Porterfield, Dan Masterson and Mr. O'Neil with former lieutenant governor Jennifer Carroll.



Former lieutenant governor Carroll.

Dopson Family Medical Center welcomes Board Certified Family Practice Physician

Dr. Patricia Jones

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Baker Rural Health Clinic is accepting new patients regardless of the ability to pay.