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#### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to promote the Baker County area. Our goal is to represent the businesses in this area and attract new industry. We are proud of our members, their products and services. The Chamber of Commerce is one of the best investments you can make in your business. We are on your side!

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Tiffany Varnadoe - Baker County Medical Services

Darryl Register - Executive Director

Brandi Jenks - Administrative Assistant

Heather Sands - Administrative Assistant

#### **Contact Us**

20 E. Macclenny Ave., FL 32063 www.bakerchamberfl.com (904) 259-6433

## Baker County

## A Small Community with a BIG Future

idely recognized for its exceptional quality of life, Baker County is a diverse and rich community, filled with an abundance of natural beauty, bountiful in resources and a strong, capable spirit. Home to a culture of good neighbors and strong faith, Baker County blends its values with innovation, agriculture and industry with its close proximity to transportation hubs and the First Coast of Jacksonville, it makes living and working here appealing to industry, visitors and residents alike.

If you enjoy being outdoors and relaxing with family and friends, you will have many options in Baker County. If your favorite activities include swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, or grilling out, we've got you covered. You might choose Shoals Park, over 2600 acres of hiking, ATV, and equestrian trails or Ocean Pond, a 1500-acre lake in western Baker County, with picnic areas and modern camp sites. You could also choose the St. Mary's River or Little St. Mary's River, pristine waterways that will take you back to nature, or you might choose the Osceola National Forest, a federally managed forest of 220,000

acres, which provides some of the best hiking and hunting in Florida.

Our county has continued to experience positive growth with new businesses, expansion of existing businesses and new residential development. The positive impacts on businesses and our local economy are exciting to see, our future is bright.

We are proud of our Chamber members, their products and services. When you are considering a purchase of goods or services, I encourage you to consider local options. Because of our growth, we have more local options for goods, services and entertainment than we have ever had before. Join with me in supporting the businesses that support our local economy.



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Shirley Jo Dugger, Realtor, GRI 904-371-0377 sdugger@watsonrealtycorp.com sdugger.watsonrealtycorp.com



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The Pairing Team
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#### **LOCATIONS OF INTEREST**

PARKS
Heritage Park
102 S Lowder St
Macclenny, FL 32063

Memorial Park 160 West Blvd Macclenny, FL 32063

Celebration Park 10046 S Glen Ave. Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

Olustee Battlefield 5815 Battlefield Trail Road Sanderson, FL 32087

BIKING / HIKING / CAMPING St. Mary's Shoals Park www.bakercountyfl.org/stmarysshoals.php

Osceola National Forest www.fs.usda.gov/osceola

**St. Mary's Cove** www.stmaryscove.com

CANOEING
John M Bethea State Forest
www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/
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**CRAFT BREWERY Crooked Rooster Brewery**Sanderson, FL

LOCAL SHOPS
The Weathered Wheel
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Macclenny, FL 32063

**Deerly Blessed** 43 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

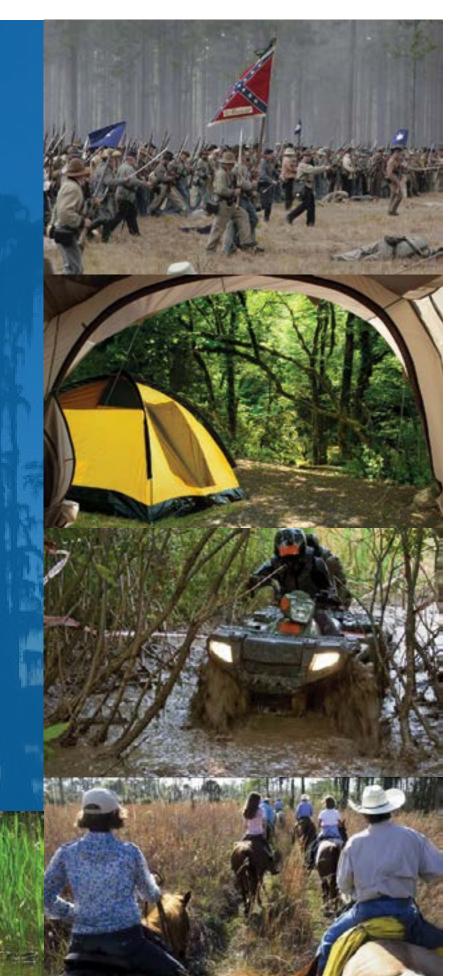
**The Village Store** 1 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

**T&M Found it for Ya** 405 N Lowder St Macclenny, FL 32063

Rachels Farmhouse 238 E Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

Franklin Mercantile 7184 E Franklin St Glen St. Mary, FL 32063

**SheShed Creations** 7116 E Mount Vernon St Glen St. Mary, 32063



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#### Yoga on 90: Empowering a community one squat at a time

By Kylie Cordell

GLEN ST. MARY – Jennifer Clary didn't step into a Yoga Studio until her 40s. While arranging mats and bolsters, Clary started to sweat ... a lot. She turned to the girl beside her and asked if the air conditioner was broken.

"It was a 90-minute power class heated at 89 degrees, and I thought I was going to die," she said. "The instructor saw that I had no idea what I was doing, so she came back and assisted me. It was tough, but it got me to a place I had never been before. Finding that frustration in my body and pushing through it was very gratifying, so that's really when I started my Yoga journey."

Every week, Clary returned to the studio. Eight years later, in March 2020, she received her 300-hour Yoga Training Certificate to open her studio. After teaching at Cornerstone Rock Gym for several weeks, her practice found a permanent home at 6746 Mt. Vernon St Suite B. Since opening Yoga on 90 in 2021, she has transformed the residential block next to Cornerstone Rock Gym into a neighborhood fixture, providing an oasis for yogis of all levels.

"I teach all kinds of Yoga. I have something for everybody," Jennifer said. "There are prenatal classes by appointment. I have already worked with two women who delivered healthy babies, and the classes helped them through the delivery. I also teach a gentle class for someone who cannot get up and down from the floor and chair Yoga for clients who are a little less stable. I also have beginner's and power classes which are much more rigorous."

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Private classes for large groups and families can be arranged by appointment. Yoga has many health benefits, including reduced pain and greater mobility.

"I've had clients come in with back issues, sciatica, degenerative disk disease, and there are certain exercises that I can give them to strengthen their back and core," she said. "I had an older gentleman; he's 83. He had fallen, and his kids told him to try Yoga, so he came to a chair class. We worked on grounding exercises; extending the spine, lifting the gaze, pulling your shoulder blades back and tilting the pelvis. When he first started, he couldn't do any of the postures, but now he can do a tree pose and lift the leg just a little bit."

Yoga can also reduce stress and anxiety.

"I have had teenagers come into my class, and I have taught them relaxation techniques for dealing with anxiety or depression or stress," Jennifer said. "And they can take those techniques with them anywhere."

Clary is affiliated with the Christina Phipps Foundation. The organization provides specialized training to experienced yoga instructors enabling them to guide cancer patients, survivors, and others with a range of motion and pain limitations. Helping those through radiation and chemotherapy is a personal mission after losing her parents to cancer within ten months of each other.

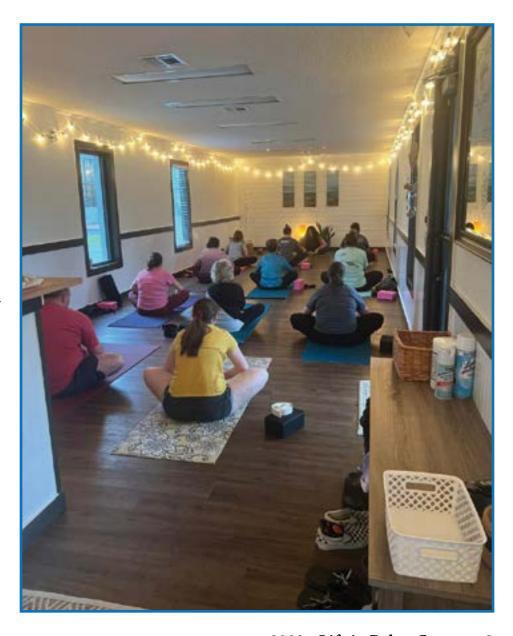
"Everyone goes through chapters in their life when it's a little more difficult than others," Jennifer said. "Yoga kept me going, knowing that I had to show up to teach a class; not only was I showing up for other people to share my experience of Yoga, but I was also showing up for myself when I could have buried my head and gone down a really bad path. Being able to come here has been a healing experience."

Yoga not only changes individual lives but can also be a healing experience for the whole community. Through donations, Yoga on 90 supports several organizations in Baker.

"Every month, we try to focus on a local charity for Baker County," she said. "In October, we did Breast Cancer Awareness. For November, we supported First Coast Women's Services and raised \$150. (In December), all the proceeds went to the Isaiah House."

Another event invites participants to a free class if they bring a pair of new socks, which are then donated to a child in need.

For more information, visit their website at www.yogaon90.com.



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#### ST. MARY'S SHOALS PARK: "THE GEM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA"

By Kylie Cordell

GLEN ST. MARY – "We've got 26,042 acres," said St. Mary's Shoals Park Patroller Steve Harvey. "It's divided basically in half."

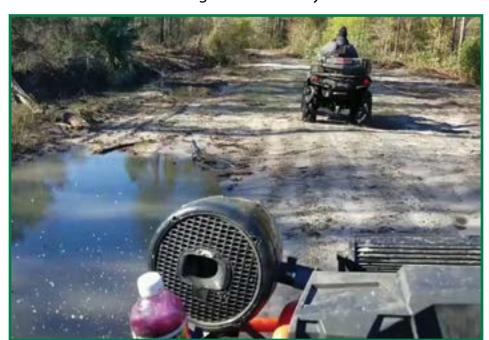
According to the St. Mary Shoals Park website, the park encompasses separate facilities and trail systems for OHV operators and "EQUI-PED(AL)" visitors, referring to equestrian and pedestrian guests, hikers, cyclists and any other foot traffic.

"Once you go down the bridge, everything is basically ATV, side-by-sides and motorized vehicles. We have 24.2 miles of motorcycle trails and 22.6 miles of pedestrian and equestrian trails and bicycle trails," Harvey said.

St. Mary's Shoals Park has preserved what old Florida looked like a century ago, complete with Spanish-moss-draped ancient and downed trees, and fish ponds home to catfish, bass and perch. The area has lots of wildlife, from turkeys, deer, some hogs and the occasional black bear, although Harvey said bears have never been a problem for park visitors.

"They are mostly scared of people, so they don't wander into the park too often," he said.

The park opened in 2009 and has operated through various grant funding, including the Florida Communities Trust, FRDAP, and Recreational Trails Program. "Then they added the ATV side



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a couple of years later in 2010," Harvey said. The property is located along the Florida-Georgia border and is flanked by the St. Mary's River on its northern boundary. EQUI-PED(AL) visitors are restricted to the park's eastern section. Entrance to this facility is located at 7777 Odis Yarborough Road. OHV operators are restricted to the park's western section at 7867 Odis Yarborough Road.

"The ATV side is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The walking side is open seven days a week, morning to dusk," Harvey said. The park closes 40 minutes before sunset.

Park visitation costs \$5 a day or every day with a \$30 annual pass for passenger vehicles and vehicles with trailers, off-highway vehicles and commercial vehicles. Besides single and multitrack riding and pedestrian and horse trails, there are many activities for families to enjoy, including nearly two miles of the tanninstained St. Mary's River and white sandy shores.

"We also have access to Cedar Creek," Harvey said.

So what exactly is there to do at the river?

"We're just now letting people bring their kayaks to designated kayak launch points to enjoy the river," he said.

Besides kayaking, shallow banks make for a perfect area to wade

in or go for a swim. If you feel like relaxing for a while, then there are plenty of places with wide sandy banks to put out a towel and sunbathe.

In addition to the various ponds scattered across the park, fishing is also available anywhere along the banks of the St. Mary's River or Ceder Creek, which runs through the middle of the park.

Other amenities include pavilions, restrooms and water access for public use. St. Mary's Shoals Park is also the largest off-highway geocaching location in Baker County. With 2,568 acres, the county website calls it a "geocaching paradise."

Geocaching is a treasure-hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers around the property, usually with other participants. However, it's not a race but a nice walk for everyone to enjoy the area where much wildlife can be seen. And there is

much more to look forward to, Harvey said.

"We are currently working with the county manager to let people camp on the property. The county is on board with it on a limited basis on primitive camping."

Although camping is not permitted on the premises, Ocean Pond Campground does have first-come, first-serve amenities with water and electrical hookups.





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Welcome to Macclenny, Florida. The City of Macclenny is pleased to welcome you to our official website and encourages your interaction with our city officials and departments. We are here to serve the residents of Macclenny and to provide information to those interested in locating within our city.

Our city's mission is simple: to provide the best services for our residents in a courteous, professional, and efficient manner.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Mark Bryant
Mayor



Mike Griffis
City Manager



Sam Kitching Commissioner



Cecil Horne Jr.
Commissioner



**Danny Norton** *Commissioner* 



**Lynward Bones** *Commissioner* 

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THE COOP 457 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

LAREDO'S MEXICAN GRILL 698 W. Macclenny, Ave Macclenny, FL 32063 GEORGE'S 7466 Mt Vernon St Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

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THE SHEIK
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Macclenny, FL 32063

THE DARBYVILLE 366 N Lowder St. Macclenny, FL 32063

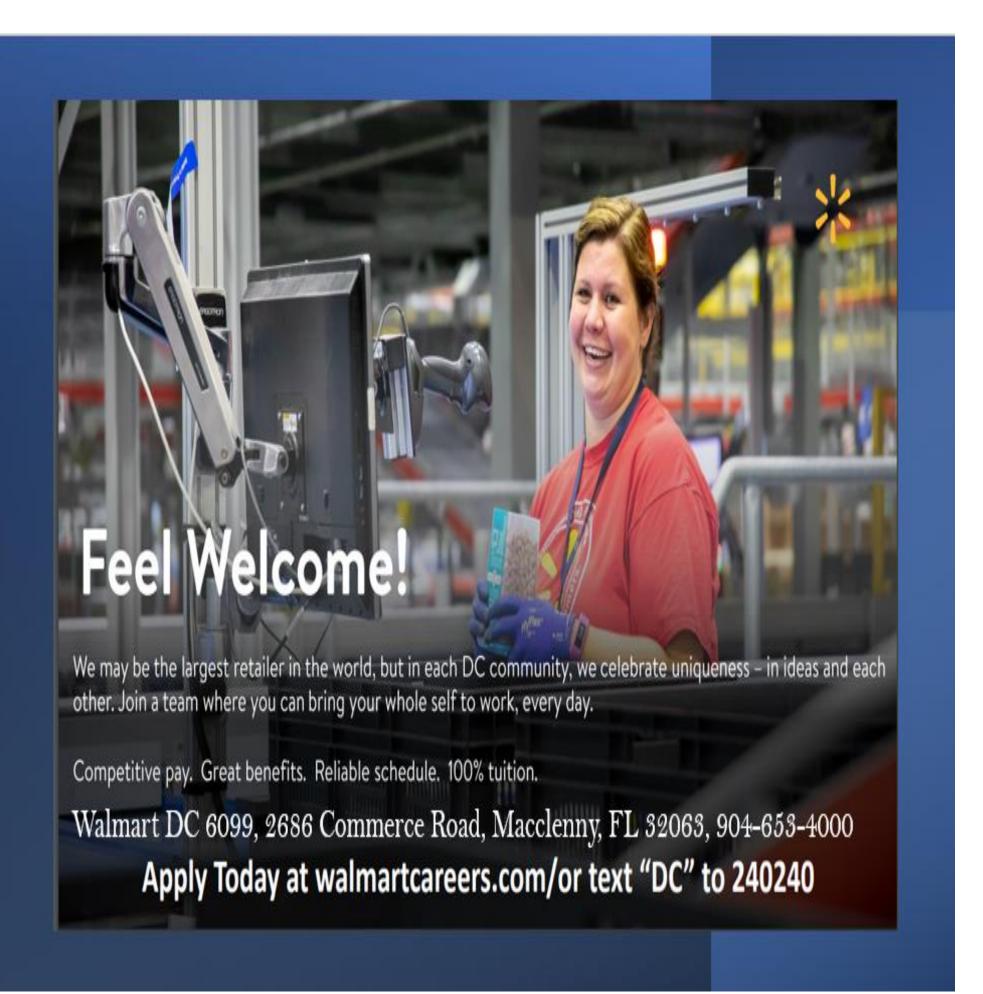
THE VILLAGE STORE BISTRO
1 W Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

MOTLEE'S 1485 S 6th Street Macclenny, FL 32063

FRASER'S CORNER CAFÉ 7161 E Mt. Vernon Street Glen Saint Mary, FL 32040

41 W. McIver Av Macclenny, FL 32063

SOUTHERN BLEND BAKER 1484 S. 6th Stteet, Suite B Macclenny, FL 32063



#### **BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Board of County Commissioners is a five-member board elected to represent the citizens of Baker County. Each member represents a district but is elected countywide. The commission establishes policies and appoints a county administrator to implement the policies and manage the operation of the county. The commission adopts the millage rate annually and approves the budget, which determines the expenditures and revenue necessary to operate all county departments. The powers and duties of the county commission are established by Florida Statutes, Chapter 125.

County Administration Offices • 55 N 3rd Street • Macclenny, FL 32063





James A. Croft County District 1



Jimmy Anderson County District 2



**Cathy Rhoden** County District 3



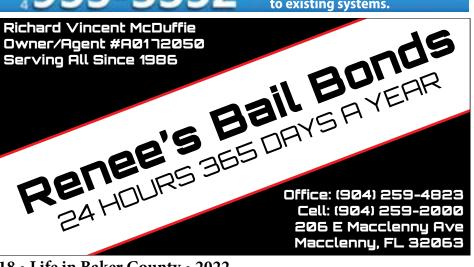
James G. Bennett County District 4



FUTURE-PRES

Mark Hartley County District 5







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#### Welcome to Darbyville

Did you know that Macclenny was first called Darbyville because most of the land of this area was owned by the Darby family? Carr Bowers McClenny married into the Darby family, and then bought most of this land in the late 19th century. He intended to harvest it for timber.

Darbyville became known as McClenny. McClenny developed many businesses there related to lumber: harvesting the wood, sawmills to process it, turpentine, and land. The town name McClenny was changed to the current name of The City of Macclenny because the post office department had a rule against using capital letters in the middle of a name. The first post office in Macclenny was established in 1890.

There were settlers in Macclenny as early as 1829, but it was not until after the Civil War that more people began to settle there. In 1888 most of the town residents were killed in a yellow fever epidemic. The population was 334 in 1890. The town gradually recovered.

By 2000, residents increased to 4,500. The 2016 population was estimated at 6562. In 1924-2021 Macclenny is followed by the following that is between Baker County The cities of Lake City Jacksonville Baldwin Glen St Mary and Starke Macclenny is in Baker County. and Baker County Florida is the westside of Jacksonville and is the seat of Glen St Mary and Lake City.

Macclenny is located in eastern Baker County at 28 miles west of downtown Jacksonville. U.S. Route 90 (Macclenny Avenue) runs through the center of town, and Interstate 10 passes through the southern tip of the town, with access from Exit 335 (State Road 121). Lake City is 32 miles to the west, and the Florida–Georgia border is 6 miles to the north. Clay County namely, Middleburg and Clay Hill is about 15 minutes from Macclenny from 218 to 301 to 228 into the city.

Macclenny offers a comfortably down home country feel with true southern charm. Beautiful lakes, shoppes, parks and a rich sense of history. Residents and visitors out for a drive from neighboring town will find plenty of delicious restaurants and shopping.





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Baker Conservative Women's Network

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#### Baker County Education Foundation











The Baker County Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1989 to promote quality education. The Foundation was originally founded with school district employees being the original contributors through payroll deductions. Payroll contributions remains the main source of funding. The generosity of our school employees throughout the district, which includes instructional, non-instructional, and administrative personnel, has enabled our Foundation to be a great success in our community. Through the years, a number of organizations, business partners, individual donors, and families have participated in helping the Foundation achieve these goals.

Each year the Foundation sponsors student scholarships, prior graduate scholarships, and mini-grants for our teachers and schools. During the past 32 years, the Foundation has funded 776 student scholarships, 191 employee and prior gradate scholarships, 508 grants for teachers and schools, and 54 special projects for a total of **\$1,440,002.78**. The Foundation is so very proud of these amazing accomplishments!

The Leaving a Legacy Scholarship Banquet was established in 2011. This event focuses on specific educators and community leaders who have had a major impact on the lives of our students in Baker County. The money raised in this yearly event funds a student scholarship of \$4,000 for one of our graduating seniors. This event alone has provided \$40,000 to our students to assist in attending college.

The Foundation is very proud of the accomplishments it has achieved and we contribute our success to the commitment that all have given to our organization.











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From left to right: Hunter Brittain, Alaina Crawford, Tina Carrington, Cheryl Rewis, Tracey Hickox, Judy Smith, Mitchael Combs, Stacie Harvey, Sherri Dugger, Donna Smith, Ann Blum, Rhett Thomas, Tabitha Addison, Kayse Fiano, Julie Combs, Debra Wood

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#### Town of Glen St. Mary



Jaunice Padgett

Mayor



**Diana Reneau**Council Member



Max Henderly Council Member



**Lola Chandler**Council Member



**Drew Vetter** Council Member

#### **Town History**

Even though it was founded as a township in 1881, Glen St. Mary's rich history dates back to its earliest known inhabitants, the Timucuan Indians. They inhabited this area until the early 1700's when they were replaced by the Creeks and Seminoles, who drifted into this area and settled. At the end of the Second Spanish Period, a different settler moved in — American pioneers. Relentlessly, this new pioneer slowly, but ever so surely, eased in and crowded the Native Americans out.

Considered the first permanent white settlers in Glen, Daniel John Mann and his wife, LeVicy, arrived in 1829. They set up housekeeping among the Native Americans and began to work the land. In the same year, another pioneer by the name of John Barber settled here. He was killed before the end of the year in a pre-dawn Native American attack. Many other pioneers closely followed — some digging in to stay a while, others eventually moving on.

By 1850, this area was known as the Cotton Field, becoming even more populated because of the vital crop. After the Civil War, however, there was a great shifting of the population, and those once-productive fields were largely abandoned. They were picked up for taxes by a new influx of Northerners and displaced Southerners from the Old Dominion and the Carolinas Charly W. Turner, a native of New York arrived in May of 1869. He constructed a small sawmill lumber house on the present site of the Glen Nurseries. Most of the land in the area at that time was controlled by a Mr. James Barnett, a lumber and naval stores operator.

After the rediscovery of Florida during the post-Civil War boom, a young Chicago stockbroker came to Florida in 1881 on the advice of his physician. Touring the countryside, he fell in love with the area. He purchased a tract of land off the St. Mary's River and began to plant an orchard. Becoming interested in the plant industry, he formed a partnership with Thomas Beath in 1882 and began the Glen St. Mary Nursery Company, starting out with 1,600 acres of abandoned cotton fields. Soon after Mr. Beath left the business, the company began to grow. George Taber became a charter member of the Florida State Horticulture Society and served as its president.

Since 1881, the Glen St. Mary area had grown to such proportions that by 1885 the Board of County Commissioners set up a committee composed of Charles Eiserman, W.H. Congleton, H.L. Reed and George Taber to divide the area of land separating Sanderson from Darbyville. This new district would become officially known as Glen St. Mary, District No. 5. Local historians credit Taber for having named the township.

After a disastrous freeze in the late 1890s, Taber refused to move his business to warmer climates. He encouraged other growers to stay in north Florida — determined more than ever to develop cold tolerant plants and learn new ways to protect plants from the cold. As a result of his dedication and hard work, thousands of acres in Florida had their beginning at the Glen St. Mary Nursery. The nursery expanded its operation to South Florida allowing it to supply plants throughout the Southeastern United States, Central and South America, China, India, Spain and Russia. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas began growing citrus with Glen stock. The Satsuma Orange, Temple Orange, Kumquat, Weaver Dogwood and the Magnolia St. Mary all originated at





the Glen St. Mary Nursery. One of our proudest symbols is the George L. Taber Azalea.

While vacationing in North Florida, Ohio resident Alverdo Geitgey was so impressed with the community that he eventually invested in 12,700 acres of Baker County land making him the first real estate developer. Plotting out the town, he named the streets after U.S. presidents and some of Glen's horticultural products. His real estate pamphlets, many being sent north by the Taber family's influence, lured buyers from all over, directly affecting the economic surge of growth to the community.

At the turn of the century, Glen St. Mary was a thriving little town. Within the township limits were at least three boarding houses, two general stores, a doctor's office with pharmacy, a train depot, an ice-cream parlor, a livery stable, a cotton and lumber mill, a large strawberry farm, a boom citrus and lumber industry, a non-alcoholic billiard hall, various churches and their crowning glory, the Glen St. Mary Nursery. All of this industry took place south of U.S. Highway 90, then just a dirt road.

It was a time when businesses, professional offices and families peacefully co-existed and prospered within Glen St. Mary. The townspeople worked hard, played hard and were proud of where they lived. Even in its heyday, it was still quite homey, with large oak trees lining our main street, planted by one of the most successful pioneering families, the Tabers.

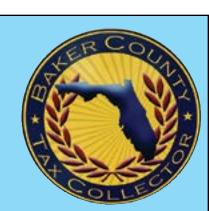
Town Hall (904) 259-3777 • Fax Line (904) 259-5464 P.O. Box 519 • 10046 S. Glen Ave. • Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 www.glenstmary.govoffice.com





## Baker County Tax Collector Amy Dugger, C.F.C.

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#### CORNERSTONE ROCK GYM

#### **Article by Kathleen Chambless**



When you hear the word "gym," it's likely you imagine something with treadmills, weights and other normal equipment. Cornerstone Rock Gym turns that idea on its head. They offer a full-body workout with their indoor rock-climbing wall, something that's not common even in bigger counties, let alone Baker County. I sat down with Jered Bearden, owner of Cornerstone Rock Gym, and got the inside scoop on the gym and the programs and activities they offer.

Cornerstone opened one year ago in 2020 to the day at the time of the interview Dec. 9, 2021. "This was less about rock climbing specifically and more about providing a place where people could come and be active, workout, and have fun doing it," Bearden said.

Though the gym has traditional workout and cardio equipment, Cornerstone offers much more. There is 6,000 square feet of climbing space, 40' climbing routes, a Ninja warrior course, yoga classes for all levels. They also provide a bouldering wall and MoonBoard which is a universal climbing wall that is found at most climbing gyms and provides a consistent path to train on.

Bearden has been climbing recreationally for years at various climbing gyms across the country.

"Climbing is one of the world's fastest growing mainstream sporting activities. It pushes you and makes you want to achieve more, and that is a skill that is useful in every aspect of life," he said

Cornerstone offers climbing at all levels from advanced to first-time beginners. Children, training athletes, couples looking to try a new activity, and elderly members of the community all make up the clientele that Cornerstone serves.

"Physically... climbing is one of the best total body workouts available. Climbing can also help you grow mentally. It enhances focus, problem solving, goal setting, and spatial awareness. That also includes stress relief and self-confidence you gain as you seek to conquer each route," Bearden said.

Despite opening right at the brink of COVID's effect on the United States, Cornerstone has

experienced incredible growth.

"We had been in the planning phase for a couple of years, and we were finishing construction right before COVID," Bearden said. "At that point, we felt it was more important to open and provide people with an outlet. We work hard to keep the gym spotless and disinfect common surfaces daily. There are things we cannot control, but we learn to adapt. Keeping people safe and healthy is our No. 1 priority."

When asked about the community response and the reaction they had received, Bearden claims

he's more than thankful.

"I think what really drives me to continue each day, even when things get difficult, is seeing families park their cars and then seeing the kids jump out of the car. They bounce up to our front door with excitement and anticipation of coming in to climb and have a great time with us," he said.

The gym continues to offer its classes and programs through the holidays and is even offering some new promotions and deals on membership that would make a fantastic gift.

If you're interested at all in starting to work out, or are looking for a new hobby that blends wellness with adrenaline, check out Cornerstone Rock Gym at 6746 Mt. Vernon St. in Glen St. Mary. You can also find them online at cornerstonerockgym.com.



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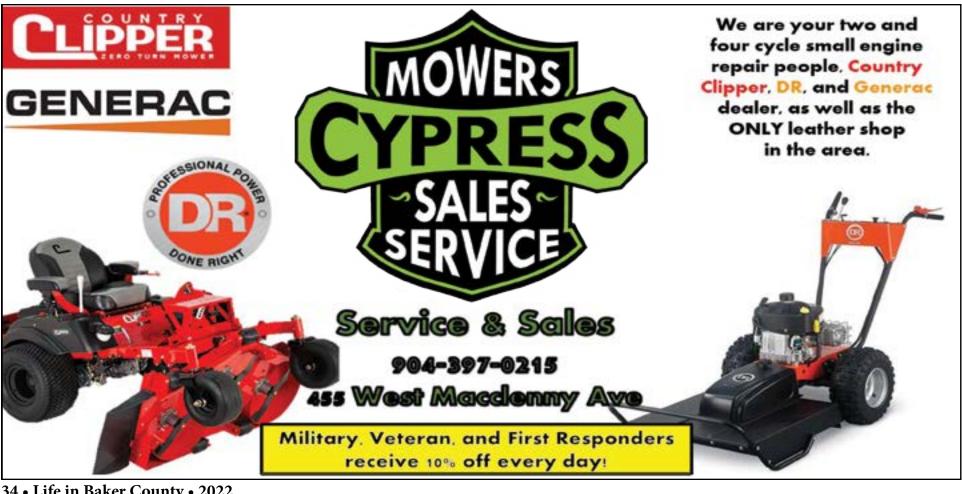
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### Battle of Olustee: Florida's bloodiest day

## Mossy oaks, whispering pines replace the deadly site of war – but not the memories

### By Don Coble

OLUSTEE – Except for the occasional throaty growl of a dump truck rambling down U.S. Highway 90 a few yards away, the solitude and quietness at Olustee Battleground are almost deafening.

The grass now is cut; the driveway is manicured. But it is still easy to envision more than 10,500 people fighting, often hand-to-hand, in a desperate attempt by the Confederate forces at Ocean Pond to keep Florida's food chain open. Then fighters also wanted to keep Florida from falling into the hands of the Union, to take timber, cotton and turpentine from the area and to keep Blacks from being recruited into the Union armies.

Just close your eyes and let your imagination wander. You can still hear the cannons echoing throughout the cypress swamp, palmetto scrubs, cypresses and pine forests. You can almost smell the acrid odor of gunpowder. And you can be horrified to hear lives being ripped apart by musket fire, cannonballs and idealogy.

In a matter of hours, it was over. The first shot was fired shortly after noon on Feb. 20, 1864. By dusk, 203 Union soldiers were dead, another 1,152 were wounded and 506 were reported missing – many from the 54<sup>th</sup>



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Massachusetts
Volunteer
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Regiment and
the
35th United
States Colored
Troops, both



composed of Black soldiers. The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusett's Volunteer Infantry Regiment was featured in the movie "Glory." Many of the scenes in the movie were filmed at Olustee during three days of re-enactments every February.

The Confederacy lost 92 men, while 847 were wounded and six went missing.

Many are still there, left nearly 159 years ago for the animals or lost in the marshy thicket.

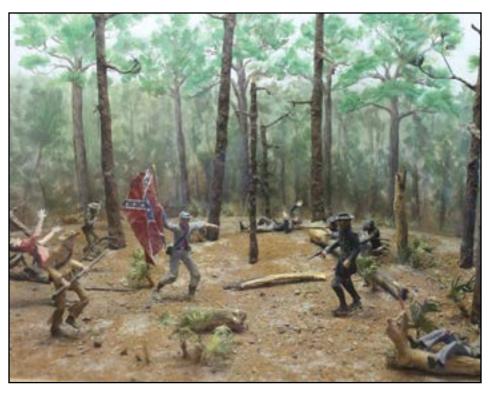
With so many injured and missing soldiers, the exact number of the dead will never be known. Historians believe at least 400 were buried around the property.

The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park is dedicated to preserving the legacies of those who died – and to the history of that day.

The visitor's center has old uniforms from both armies, as well as a video presentation of the deadliest battle in Florida history. While the center is often left unmanned, the doors are unlocked and opened for exploring.

The State of Florida purchased three acres of the original 270-acre battleground to make Olustee the state's first historic site.

There is no entry fee unless there's a special event like the



annual re-enactment on Feb. 17-19. The park, located at 5815 Battlefield Trail Road, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The focal points are a monument section that honors Confederate soldiers who turned back troops who were sent to disrupt the South's food chain and a cemetery that pays reverence to the North's casualties.

The Union army grossly underestimated the size and determination of the Confederate fighters, and they were trapped by swamps on both sides so they couldn't easily maneuver.

Confederate soldiers, who were led by Gen.
Joseph Finegan, eventually turned back the
Union's advance with many escaping to
Jacksonville. The death toll could have been
more substantial, but Finegan didn't hunt down
soldiers while they retreated.

Many soldiers from both sides had experienced battles, but most said the fighting at Olustee was especially brutal.

Union Lt. Frederick E. Grossman was sent to the battlefield in 1866 to recover the remains

of the North's soldiers. He found about 125 of them, and he buried them in a mass grave. In all, about 400 soldiers were buried or believed to be lost on the battlefield.

A 12-foot-high wooden cross was erected where many believed the mass grave existed.

In 1991, a marble replica was added to the cemetery. While there are no records of the exact location of the wooden cross, the current location is supposed to be near the mass grave site.

The Confederate dead were buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Lake City.

Every year, the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park Citizens Support Organization, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Recreation and Parks, the Blue-Grey Army and USDA Forest Service-Osceola National Forest, present a reenactment to make sure the haunting memories — and historic significance of the era — of the bloodiest battle in Florida history are never forgotten.





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Macclenny, FL 32063
F:(904) 259-5380
vburnham@burnhamconstructioninc.com

### CONVENIENCE STORES Island Oaks Resorts LLC

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Elizabeth Southard 690A West Macclenny Avenue (904) 400-0517 Macclenny, FL 32063 elizabethsouthardImhc@gmail.com

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### CURRICULUM WRITING Mathematical Minds, LLC

Pamela Young 280 MLK Drive (859) 433-9647 Macclenny, FL 32063 pyoung@mathminds365.com

#### DENTIST - PEDIATRICS Florida Department of Health in Baker County

Meaghan Crowley baker.floridahealth.gov/ 480 West Lowder Street (904) 653-5242 Macclenny, FL 32063 meaghan.crowley@flhealth.gov

### DENTISTS George Weeks, DDS

George Weeks www.macclennydentist.com 60 West Boulevard (904) 259-4649 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-5926 office@macclennydentist.com

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Meg Romeo 546 South Fifth Street (904) 259-5007 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-8978 office@drmegromeo.com

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### EDUCATION CONSULTANT Mathematical Minds, LLC

Pamela Young 280 MLK Drive (859) 433-9647 Macclenny, FL 32063 pyoung@mathminds365.com

## **ELECTRIC COMPANIES Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**Jordan Wade

www.clayelectric.com 1797 SW State Road 47 (386) 961-0102 Lake City, FL 32025 F:(352) 473-1328 jwade@clayelectric.com

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Macclenny, FL 32063
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Carter Funk https://islandoaksrvresort.com 9664 Nursery Boulevard (904) 420-7822 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 carter@sihomesfl.com

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### FINAL EXPENSE PLANS Green Insurance Agency, Inc.

Bill Green https://greeninsagency.com/ 1950 Miller Street, Suite 6 (904) 717-1176 Orange Park, FL 32073 Info@Greeninsagency.com

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES Aligned CPA, LLC

Joy Lutz www.alignedcpa.com 224 E. Duval Street (386) 752-4005 Lake City, FL 32055 admin@alignedcpa.com

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Corey Crews www.fireworks.com 9190 South State Road 228 (904) 259-5211 Macclenny, FL 32063 ccrews@fireworks.com

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Shelley Plemmons https://www.facebook.com/ anytimefitnessmacclennyFL 788 South Sixth Street (904) 327-8667 Macclenny, FL 32063 jkirkland03@yahoo.com

#### **Northeast Florida AHEC**

Tonia Harris northfloridaahec.org 2223 Oak Street (904) 482-0189 Jacksonville, FL 32204 F:(904) 482-0196 tlind@northfloridaahec.org

### FITNESS & WEIGHT LOSS CENTERS

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Marc Vann www.vanncarpetonelakecity.com 131 West Duval Street (386) 752-3420 Lake City, FL 32055 F:(386) 752-8093 MARC\_A\_VANN@HOTMAIL.COM

## FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE Representative Chuck Brannan

Chuck Brannan 339 East Macclenny Avenue (386) 758-0405 Macclenny, FL 32063 chuck.brannan@myfloridahouse.gov

#### FLORIDA STATE SENATOR State Senator Jennifer Bradley

Jennifer Bradley 1279 Kingsley Avenue (904) 278-2085 124 NW Madison Street Lake City, FL 32055 Orange Park, FL 32073 bradley.jennifer.web@flsenate.gov

#### FLORIST Moonlight Blessings

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#### **Pickering Creations LLC**

Donna Pickering www.facebook.com/ pickeringcreations/ 481 Cardinal Lane (850) 510-4603 Macclenny, FL 32063 pickeringhouse44@gmail.com

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Glen St. Mary, FL 32040
richssmokeringbbq@gmail.com

### FORESTRY MANAGEMENT Meredith Forestry Services

Troy Meredith 4079 C.R.119 (904) 813-1745 Bryceville, FL 32009 meredithfs19@gmail.com

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS Blackburn-Curry Funeral and Cremation

Shannon Curry www.blackburncurryfh.com

380 North Lowder Street (904) 259-2806 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2817 jmc2lfd@gmail.com

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Bill Guerry www.guerryfuneralhome.net 420 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-2211 Macclenny, FL 32063 guerryfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

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V. Todd Ferreira www.ferreirafuneralservices.com 250 North Lowder Street (904) 259-5700 Macclenny, FL 32063 admin@ferreirafuneralservices.com

### FURNITURE The Weathered Wheel, LLC

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Leonard Pittman www.haganace.com 6567 US Highway 90 West (904) 259-3451 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 macclenny@haganace.com

#### GOVERNMENT Baker County Board of Commissioners

Sara Little www.bakercountyfl.org 55 North Third Street (904) 259-3613 Macclenny, FL 32063 sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

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Stacie Harvey www.bakerclerk.com 339 East Macclenny Avenue #113 (904) 259-8113 Macclenny, FL 32063 stacie.harvey@bakercountyfl.org

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Darryl Register www.bakerchamberfl.com 20 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-6433 Macclenny, FL 32063 dregister@bakerchamberfl.com

### **Baker County Hospital Authority**

Todd Ferreira www.bakerchamberfl.com 20 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-6433 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2737

### Baker County Property Appraiser

Tim Sweat www.bakercountyfl.org 32 North Fifth Street, Suite B (904) 259-3191 Macclenny, FL 32063 kim.pelfrey@bakercountyfl.org

#### **Baker County Sheriff's Office**

Scotty Rhoden www.bakercountyfl.org 1 Sheriff's Office Drive (904) 259-2231 Macclenny, FL 32063 srhoden@bakerso.com

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Chris Milton www.bakerelections.com 32 North Fifth Street (904) 259-6339 Macclenny, FL 32063 vote@bakercountyfl.org

#### **Baker County Tax Collector**

Amy Dugger www.bakercountyfl.org 32 North Fifth Street, Suite A (904) 259-2321 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2279 amy.dugger@bakercountyfl.org

### **City of Macclenny**

Phil Rhoden www.cityofmacclenny.com 118 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-6261 Macclenny, FL 32063 citymanager@cityofmacclenny.com

### Florida Department of Health in Baker County

Meaghan Crowley baker.floridahealth.gov/ 480 West Lowder Street (904) 653-5242 Macclenny, FL 32063 meaghan.crowley@flhealth.gov

### **Northeast FL Regional Council**

Elizabeth Payne www.nefrc.org 100 Festival Park Avenue (904) 279-0880 Jacksonville, FL 32202 F:(904)279-0623 dstarling@nefrc.org

### **Representative Chuck Brannan**

Chuck Brannan 339 East Macclenny Avenue (386) 758-0405 Macclenny, FL 32063 chuck.brannan@myfloridahouse.gov

### **State Senator Jennifer Bradley**

Jennifer Bradley 1279 Kingsley Avenue (904) 278-2085 124 NW Madison Street Lake City, FL 32055 Orange Park, FL 32073 bradley.jennifer.web@flsenate.gov

### **Town of Glen St. Mary**

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### GRAPHIC DESIGN Melody Bussey, Inc.

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Jared Bearden 6746 East Mount Vernon Street Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 jbearden@cornerstonerockgym.com

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Leonard Pittman www.haganace.com 6567 US Highway 90 West (904) 259-3451 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 macclenny@haganace.com

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT Florida Department of Health in Baker County

Meaghan Crowley baker.floridahealth.gov/ 480 West Lowder Street (904) 653-5242 Macclenny, FL 32063 meaghan.crowley@flhealth.gov

### HEALTHCARE Baker County Medical Services

Tiffany Varnadoe www.edfraserhospital.com 159 North Third Street (904) 259-3151 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3160 JLong@bcmedsvcs.com

### Florida Department of Health in Baker County

Meaghan Crowley baker.floridahealth.gov/ 480 West Lowder Street (904) 653-5242 Macclenny, FL 32063 meaghan.crowley@flhealth.gov

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Bill Green https://greeninsagency.com/ 1950 Miller Street, Suite 6 (904) 717-1176 Orange Park, FL 32073 Info@Greeninsagency.com

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### HEALTHCARE EDUCATION SERVICES

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## HOSPICE Community Hospice & Palliative Care of North Central Florida

Billie Adkins www.communityhospice.com 4266 Sunbeam Road (904) 200-0240 Jacksonville, FL 32257 F:(904) 407-6025 BAdkins@communityhospice.com

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Karen Maguire www.vitas.com 36 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-8919 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-8918 madison.goodwin@vitas.com

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Cheryl Johns www.tregoning.net P.O. Box 1316 (904) 259-6181 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-9596 Cjohns\_tregon@nefcom.net

### INSURANCE

### Baker County Farm Bureau Jack Baker

539 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6332 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6730 jbakerjr01@gmail.com

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### INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS NEFCOM

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David Burnham www.burnhamconstructioninc.

www.burnhamconstructioninc. com 11413 Enterprise East Blvd. (904) 259-5360 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-5380

vburnham@burnhamconstructioninc.com

#### Tim-Prep, Inc.

Michael Stokes www.timprep.com 18850 Macclenny Road (904) 289-7000 Jacksonville, FL 32234 F:(904) 289-7445 mstokes@timprep.com

#### Tractor's Work, Inc.

Mike Sands PO Box 1296 (904) 334-9843 Macclenny, FL 32063 firefighterrms@yahoo.com

#### LAND SURVEYORS L.D. Bradley Surveyor

Arnold Johns www.ldbradley.net 510 South Fifth Street (904) 786-6400 Macclenny, FL 32063 pfarnesi@ldbradley.net

#### **LANDFILLS**

New River Solid Waste Association Perry Kent www.nrswa.org P.O. Box 647 (386) 431-1000 Raiford, FL 32083

### Kelly Klean

Landscaping

F:386-431-1099

pkent@nrswa.org

Sharon Dolby - Kelly http://www.kelly-klean.com/ 921 Red Fox Way (904) 397-0760 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 923-6604 kellykutklean1@gmail.com

## LAWN & GARDEN SALES & SERVICE Cypress Mower Service & Sales, LLC

Nikki Chapman 455 West Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063 info.cypressmower@gmail.com

### **Macclenny Cycle & Marine**

Steve Williams www.mcmoutdoorpower.com/ 185 South Lowder Street (904) 259-5494 Macclenny, FL 32063 Mcm@nefcom.net

### LIFE & SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE

**Green Insurance Agency, Inc.** 

Bill Green https://greeninsagency.com/ 1950 Miller Street, Suite 6 (904) 717-1176 Orange Park, FL 32073 Info@Greeninsagency.com

#### **LOANS**

#### **Ameris Bank**

Tim Jacobs www.amerisbank.com 839 South Fifth Street (904) 259-6003 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6899 tim.jacobs@amerisbank.com

#### **First Federal Bank**

Lance Griffis www.ffbf.com 784 South Sixth Street (904) 831-5300 Macclenny, FL 32063 griffisl@ffbf.com

### **TD Bank**

Jacqueline Robinson www.tdbank.com 606 West Madison Street (904) 964-9136 Starke, FL 32091 jacqueline.robinson2@td.com

### **TRU FI Credit Union**

Anita Crews www.truficu.org 602 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6702 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2666 acrews@truficu.org

### **VyStar Credit Union**

Christina Crews www.vystarcu.org 1168 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6203 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6219 crewsc@vystarcu.org

### A message from Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson:



Shervie Raulerson

Baker County

Schools Superintendent

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Baker County School District. It is a wonderful learning community where we are "Building Champions Inside and Outside of the Classroom!"

As Superintendent, I would like to assure you that I truly believe an exemplary school system is essential for students, employees, and our community. Each student in our system is provided the best education possible. Our educational leaders, teachers, and non-instructional employees are dedicated to providing a safe, quality education to our more than 5,000 students. We currently have six schools in our county, as well as, an Adult and Career Education Center that all have instructional programs promoting the individual growth and success of our students. Also, I am very excited to announce that we recently received \$36,946,301.00 from the Florida Legislators and are in the process of building

a brand new, state of the art, kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school that is set to open in 2023. The new school has been named Legacy Elementary School which represents "Education excellence built on the foundation of those who came before those who are here today!" I can't wait to see the children walk into this beautiful new school and begin building their own life legacy as they grow and learn. It is also noteworthy that every kindergarten through fifth grade student in our entire district will benefit from the grade re-configuration that the new school will allow.

The Baker County School District has amazing students, and I am so proud of their accomplishments. We have some of the most talented and gifted students in the State of Florida and in the nation. Our students are performing at the highest levels in the State of Florida on standardized test. There are students, athletes in all sports, band members, majorettes and cheerleaders winning state and national championships year after year. We have students at universities throughout the United States participating at the collegiate levels in numerous sports and academic endeavors after leaving our programs. We also have students serving in all branches of the military and students completing apprenticeships and technical education programs.

We are truly a family here in Baker County. There is no place I would rather live. We are blessed to have such wonderful involvement from our businesses, community, and parents. *It's Better in Baker!* 



#### The Baker County School District Mission and Vision Statements:

The Baker County School District is committed to meeting the needs of all students in a safe, nurturing, and encouraging environment. The Baker County School District involves parents, students, teachers, and community members in the process of determining goals that meet student needs. The vision of the Baker County School District is to prepare individuals to be lifelong learners, self-sufficient, and responsible citizens of good character.



Baker County School District - 392 South Blvd East Macclenny, Fl (904) 259-6251 - bakerk12.org

#### **LODGING**

#### **Hampton Inn & Suites**

Sandy Branch www.facebook.com/Hampton-Inn-Suites-Macclenny-FL-110090810859086/ 5242 George Hodges Rd. (904) 259-9826 Macclenny, FL 32063 sandy.branch@hilton.com

## LOGISTICS Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT)

Susan Stewart www.jaxport.com 2831 Talleyrand Avenue (904) 357-3056 Jacksonville, FL 32206 F:(904) 357-3060 susan.stewart@jaxport.com

#### LUMBER West Fraser, Inc.

Jennifer Cartrette www.westfraser.com 6640 CR 218 (904) 289-7261 Jacksonville, FL 32234 max.ap@westfraser.com

### MANUFACTURERS - WIRE Insteel Wire Products

Donnie Sapp www.insteel.com One Wiremill Road (904) 275-2100 Sanderson, FL 32087 F:(904) 275-2632 dsapp@insteel.com

### MANUFACTURING

#### Red White and Bloom Florida, Inc.

Jim Frazier www.redwhitebloom.com 13907 Arnold Rhoden Road (727) 474-3977 Sanderson, FL 32087 Jim.Frazier@RWB-Florida.com

#### West Fraser, Inc.

Jennifer Cartrette www.westfraser.com 6640 CR 218 (904) 289-7261 Jacksonville, FL 32234 max.ap@westfraser.com

### MARINE REPAIRS, PARTS & SERVICE

#### **Macclenny Cycle & Marine**

Steve Williams www.mcmoutdoorpower.com/ 185 South Lowder Street (904) 259-5494 Macclenny, FL 32063 Mcm@nefcom.net

## MASSAGE THERAPIST Baker County Chiropractic

James Cardozo 1437 South Sixth Street (904) 259-2999 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3026 bakerchiro@yahoo.com

### MATH TUTORING Mathematical Minds, LLC

Pamela Young 280 MLK Drive (859) 433-9647 Macclenny, FL 32063 pyoung@mathminds365.com

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Elizabeth Southard, LMHC LLC

Elizabeth Southard 690A West Macclenny Avenue (904) 400-0517 Macclenny, FL 32063 elizabethsouthardImhc@gmail.com

### **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**

Laurie Michaelson mbhci.org 92 West Lowder Street (352) 374-5600 ext. 8218 Macclenny, FL 32063

#### **Northeast Florida State Hospital**

Linda G. Williams www.myflfamlies.com 7487 State Road 121 South (904) 259-6211 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7101 Cheyanna.Fussell@myflfamilies.com

### MERCHANT SERVICES/CREDIT CARD PROCESSING

### **Total Merchant Services**

Wade Barlow www.totalmerchantservices.com 11489 Pine Loop (904) 259-8552 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 wjbarlow@comcast.net

#### MILL

### **West Fraser, Inc.**Jennifer Cartrett

www.westfraser.com 6640 CR 218 (904) 289-7261 Jacksonville, FL 32234 max.ap@westfraser.com

### MINING COMPANY Chemours

**Stuart Forrester** 

www.chemours.com P.O. Box 753 (904) 964-1220 Starke, FL 32091 F:(904) 964-5075

#### stuart.r.forrester@chemours.com

### MONUMENTS Guerry Funeral Home

Bill Guerry www.guerryfuneralhome.net 420 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-2211 Macclenny, FL 32063 guerryfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

#### **V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services**

V. Todd Ferreira www.ferreirafuneralservices.com 250 North Lowder Street (904) 259-5700 Macclenny, FL 32063 admin@ferreirafuneralservices.com

#### MORTGAGES Ameris Bank

Tim Jacobs www.amerisbank.com 839 South Fifth Street (904) 259-6003 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6899 tim.jacobs@amerisbank.com

#### **First Federal Bank**

Lance Griffis www.ffbf.com 784 South Sixth Street (904) 831-5300 Macclenny, FL 32063 griffisl@ffbf.com

#### **TD Bank**

Jacqueline Robinson www.tdbank.com 606 West Madison Street (904) 964-9136 Starke, FL 32091 jacqueline.robinson2@td.com

#### **TRU FI Credit Union**

Anita Crews www.truficu.org 602 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6702 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2666 acrews@truficu.org

### **VyStar Credit Union**

Christina Crews www.vystarcu.org 1168 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6203 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6219 crewsc@vystarcu.org

### MOWER REPAIR Cypress Mower Service & Sales,

LLC, Nikki Chapman 455 West Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063 info. cypressmower@gmail.com

### MOWER SALES Cypress Mower Service & Sales,

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Macclenny City Hall &

Building Dept. 259-6261

118 E. Macclenny Avenue

Town of Glen St. Mary 259-3777

**Baker County Offices** 

Baker County Clerk of Court 259-8113 339 E. Macclenny Avenue

**Building, Zoning &** 

Planning Dept. 259-2403

360 E. Shuey Avenue

**County Administration** 

**Building** 259-3613

55 N. Third Street

**Emergency Operations** 

Center 259-2861

1 Sheriffs Office Drive

Emily Taber Public Library 259-6464

Fire Dept. 259-3331

(Macclenny - non-emergency) 139 E. Macclenny Avenue

Baker County Health Dept. 259-6291

480 W. Lowder Street

Hospital & Medical Center 259-3151

159 N. Third Street

Property Appraiser 259-3191

32 N. Fifth Street

Sheriff's Office 259-2231

(non-emergency)

1 Sheriffs Office Drive

Tax Collector 259-2321

32 N. Fifth Street

Hagan **ACE** Hardware





























GARDEN CENTER



#### NEWSPAPERS The Baker County Press

Jessica Prevatt www.bakercountypress.com 104 South Fifth Street (904) 259-2400 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6502 editor@bakercountypress.com

#### **Clay Today**

Sheri Lhotak www.claytodayonline.com 3513 Highway 17 (904) 264-3200 Fleming Island, FL 32003 sheri@claytodayonline.com

#### NIGHT LIFE Gator Patrick Tavern

Tommy Corns 620 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 613-0734 Macclenny, FL 32063

#### NURSERIES - WHOLESALE Glen St. Mary Nurseries Company

Tab Taber http://www.gsmnurseries.com/ homepage.html 7703 Glen Nursery Rd. (904) 259-6256 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 tabtaber7@gmail.com

#### NURSING HOME Baker County Medical Services

Tiffany Varnadoe www.edfraserhospital.com 159 North Third Street (904) 259-3151 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3160 JLong@bcmedsvcs.com

### Macclenny Nursing & Rehab Center

Sabrina Ali www.macclennyrehab.com/ 755 South Fifth Street (904) 259-4873 Macclenny, FL 32063 mada@southernItc.com

### OILS - PETROLEUM L.V. Hiers, Inc.

Les Stone www.lvhiers.com

253 East Florida Avenue (904) 259-2314 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-8022 astone@lvhiers.com

### **OPTOMETRISTS Baker Vision Care**

Mary M. Futch 31 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6259 Macclenny, FL 32063 bvc@setel.net

#### Robert Phillips, O.D.

Robert Phillips 534 South Fifth Street (904) 259-6797 Macclenny, FL 32063 drrlphillips@bellsouth.net

### ORTHODONTISTS Coastline Orthodontics

David Garner www.qualitywithasmile.com 2363 Dunn Avenue, Suite 1 (904) 259-5220 Jacksonville, FL 32218

### PACKING AND SHIPPING Baker Business Center

Mark Akins https://www.bakerbusinesscenter. com 11 South Boulevard East (904) 397-0458 Macclenny, FL 32063 mark@bakerbusinesscenter.com

### PAINT SUPPLIES Hagan Ace Hardware

Leonard Pittman www.haganace.com 6567 US Highway 90 West (904) 259-3451 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 macclenny@haganace.com

### PAWN SHOPS Baker Guns and Gold Pawn

Erin Tubbs 1159 South Sixth Street (904) 259-7800 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-9986

### PAYROLL SERVICES Lyons and Lyons, CPA's

Clay Lyons lyonscpa.net 106 West Boulevard (904) 259-4307 Macclenny, FL 32063 clay@lyonscpa.net

#### PEST CONTROL

Gateway Pest Control of N.E. FL., Inc. Shannon Monds 7132 East Mount Vernon Street (904) 259-3808 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

### PET GROOMING Furr Real Grooming, LLC

Stacy Doyle www.furrrealgrooming.com 4710 Maple Street (904) 226-6731 Macclenny, FL 32063 furrrealgrooming@gmail.com

#### PHYSICAL THERAPY Baker County Chiropractic Center

James Cardozo 1437 South Sixth Street (904) 259-2999 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3026 bakerchiro@yahoo.com

### **Baker County Medical Services**

Tiffany Varnadoe www.edfraserhospital.com 159 North Third Street (904) 259-3151 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3160 JLong@bcmedsvcs.com

#### **Welcome Homecare**

Patricia Millard www.welcomehomecare.com 32 South Fifth Street

(904) 259-3111 Macclenny, FL 32063 ap@hcmcinc.com

### PHYSICIANS Baker County Medical Services

Tiffany Varnadoe www.edfraserhospital.com 159 North Third Street (904) 259-3151 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3160 JLong@bcmedsvcs.com

#### **Millennium Physician Group**

Michelle McCormick www.millenniumphysician.com 725 South Sixth Street (904) 259-3150 Macclenny, FL 32063 michelle.mccormick@mpgus.com

### PINE STRAW Glen St. Mary Nurseries Company

Tab Taber http://www.gsmnurseries.com/ homepage.html 7703 Glen Nursery Rd. (904) 259-6256 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 tabtaber7@gmail.com

### PIPE MANUFACTURERS Sanderson Pipe Corporation

Darla Fogarty www.sandersonpipe.com One Enterprise Boulevard West (904) 275-2833 Sanderson, FL 32087 F:(904) 275-3085 darla@sandersonpipe.com

#### PLANTS Glen St. Mary Nurseries Company

Tab Taber http://www.gsmnurseries.com/ homepage.html 7703 Glen Nursery Rd. (904) 259-6256 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 tabtaber7@gmail.com

### PLUMBER/PLUMBING All Around Plumbing

Joshua Sapp 11 South Boulevard East Suite #4 (904) 338-4958 Macclenny, FL 32063 jdsapp26@reagan.com

#### **PONDS**

Tractor's Work, Inc. Mike Sands PO Box 1296 (904) 334-9843 Macclenny, FL 32063 firefighterrms@yahoo.com

## PORT AUTHORITY Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT)

Susan Stewart www.jaxport.com 2831 Talleyrand Avenue (904) 357-3056 Jacksonville, FL 32206 F:(904) 357-3060 susan.stewart@jaxport.com

### PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

#### **First Coast Women's Services**

Dana Lane www.RULateAndWorried.com 368 South Fifth Street (904) 259-2585 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2591 dlane@fcwsprc.org

#### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT Anderson Quality Roofing, LLC

Jimmy Anderson 5913 Charlie Rowe Drive (904) 259-3300 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:904-259-5953 jimmyanderson73164@gmail.com

### **Southeast Realty Group**

Cindy Oglesby www.southeastrealtygroup.com 69 West Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-9333 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7333 cindy@southeastrealtygroup.com

### REAL ESTATE AGENCIES A Front Porch Realty, LLC

Teresa Yarborough 12 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 545-5349 Macclenny, FL 32063 teresa@afrontporchrealty.com

### American Dream of Northeast Florida

Terrenia Staier www.americandreamflorida.com/ 4397 South CR 229 (904) 275-2748 Glen St Mary, FL 32040 tstaier@americandreamflorida.com

#### **Dual State Real Estate**

Sabrina Thrift www.dualstaterealestate.com 797 South Sixth Street (904) 397-0263 Macclenny , FL 32063 F:(904) 397-0565 dualstaterealestate@gmail.com

#### **Southeast Realty Group**

Cindy Oglesby www.southeastrealtygroup.com 69 West Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-9333 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7333 cindy@southeastrealtygroup.com

### **VyStar Credit Union**

Christina Crews www.vystarcu.org 1168 South Sixth Street (904) 259-6203 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6219 crewsc@vystarcu.org

### REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS Dual State Real Estate

Sabrina Thrift www.dualstaterealestate.com 797 South Sixth Street (904) 397-0263 Macclenny , FL 32063 F:(904) 397-0565 dualstaterealestate@gmail.com

### **Roberts Land & Timber**

Avery Roberts www.flaland.com P.O. Box 233 (386) 496-3509 Lake Butler, FL 32054 F:(386) 496-4309 stephanie@flaland.com

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Cindy Oglesby www.southeastrealtygroup.com 69 West Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-9333 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7333 cindy@southeastrealtygroup.com

### REAL ESTATE RENTALS Anderson Quality Roofing, LLC

Jimmy Anderson 5913 Charlie Rowe Drive (904) 259-3300 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:904-259-5953 jimmyanderson73164@gmail.com

#### **Dual State Real Estate**

Sabrina Thrift www.dualstaterealestate.com 797 South Sixth Street (904) 397-0263 Macclenny , FL 32063 F:(904) 397-0565 dualstaterealestate@gmail.com

#### **Southeast Realty Group**

Cindy Oglesby www.southeastrealtygroup.com 69 West Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-9333 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7333 cindy@southeastrealtygroup.com

## REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS Southern Air and Refrigeration, Inc.

Joel Long 13329 Bob Burnsed Road (904) 259-2061 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 jlongac@icloud.com

### REHABILITATION SERVICES Baker County Medical Services

Tiffany Varnadoe www.edfraserhospital.com 159 North Third Street (904) 259-3151 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-3160 JLong@bcmedsvcs.com

### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION A Day of Hope, Inc.

Thomas Gainey www.adayofhope.org 6096 Larimer Road (904) 251-5433 Macclenny, FL 32063 adayofhope319@gmail.com

#### RENTAL American Way Townhomes

Angela Tanner 794 American Way (904) 397-0343 Macclenny, FL 32063

#### **The Glen Venue**

Tab Taber theglenvenue.com 7504 Glen Nursery Rd. (904) 728-1886 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 theglenvenue@gmail.com

### RESIDENTIAL JUNK REMOVAL Junkn with Karas

Thomas Karas www.JunknwithKaras.com 1044 Village Green Ct. (904) 485-7786 Jacksonville, FL 32234 junknwithkaras@gmail.com

### RESTAURANTS Calendars Pizzeria

Terri Faudree
https://www.facebook.com/
calendarspizzeria
38 East Macclenny Ave.
(904) 259-5040
Macclenny, FL 32063

#### **Hardee's Restaurants**

terrifaudree@yahoo.com

Hardee's 1490 South Sixth Street (904) 272-9282 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(813) 200-1059 bree@phasethreestar.com

### **Island Oaks Resorts LLC**

Carter Funk https://islandoaksrvresort.com 9664 Nursery Boulevard (904) 420-7822 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 carter@sihomesfl.com

#### Macclenny BBQ LLC dba Woody's BBQ

Jack Dunsmoor www.woodys.com 1482 South Sixth Street (904) 259-5800 Macclenny, FL 32063 macclenny@woodysbarbq.com

### Richs Smoke Ring BBQ

Rich Wilkinson https://www.facebook. com/Richs-Smoke-Ring-BBQ-667050023438922/ 11171 Rufus Powers Road (904) 731-6876 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 richssmokeringbbq@gmail.com

#### RETAIL Baker Business Center

Mark Akins https://www.bakerbusinesscenter.com 11 South Boulevard East (904) 397-0458 Macclenny, FL 32063 mark@bakerbusinesscenter.com

### Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT)

Susan Stewart www.jaxport.com 2831 Talleyrand Avenue (904) 357-3056 Jacksonville, FL 32206 F:(904) 357-3060 susan.stewart@jaxport.com

### Leaf & Dove - Children's and Maternity Boutique

Jessica King 118 South 5th Street (904) 864-7810 Macclenny, FL 32063 admin@leafanddove.com

### Rack Up Thrift Store

Michele Hodges http://www.rackupthrift.com/ 6122 West Macclenny Avenue Macclenny, FL 32063 michelehodges04@gmail.com

### The Weathered Wheel, LLC

Stephanie Johnson https://www.facebook.com/ weatheredwheelfurniture 4 West Macclenny Ave (904) 259-5038 Macclenny, FL 32063 weatheredwheel@gmail.com

### ROCK CLIMBING Cornerstone Rock Gym

Jared Bearden 6746 East Mount Vernon Street Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 jbearden@cornerstonerockgym.com

### Anderson Quality Roofing, LLC

Jimmy Anderson 5913 Charlie Rowe Drive (904) 259-3300 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:904-259-5953 jimmyanderson73164@gmail.com

### SATELLITE SERVICES NEFCOM

Klate Hancock www.nefcom.net 130 North Fourth Street (904) 259-2261 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7722 khancock@nefcom.net

#### Setel

Josh Woods 1165 South Sixth Street (904) 259-1300 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7606 josh@setel.net

### SCHOOLS Baker County School District

Sherrie Raulerson www.bakerk12.org 270 South Boulevard East (904) 259-6251 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-2825 sherrie.raulerson@bakerk12.org

### Florida Gateway College

Brian Dopson www.fgc.edu 149 Southeast College Place (386) 754-4247 Lake City, FL 32025-8703 F:(386) 754-4747

### United Christian Church/ Academy/Eagles Nest

Mitchell Rhoden www.unitedchristianmacclenny.com 590 North Seventh Street (904) 259-1199 Macclenny, FL 32063 mitchellrhoden@nefcom.net

### **Westside Nursery & Preschool**

Peggy Driggers 10274 North Sherman Avenue (904) 259-4899 Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 F:(904) 259-4899 westsidenurserypreschool@yahoo.com

### SCREEN PRINTING Sports Shak, Wesley Mobley

535 South Sixth Street (904) 259-2484 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-0789 SportShak@nefcom.net

## SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES Baker County Council on Aging, Inc.

Christina Harvey www.bakercoa.org 101 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 259-2223 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-6394 charvey@bakercoa.org

### **Northeast Florida AHEC**

Tonia Harris northfloridaahec.org 2223 Oak Street (904) 482-0189 Jacksonville, FL 32204 F:(904) 482-0196 tlind@northfloridaahec.org

### SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION & REPAIR

### **Superior Septic Services, Inc.**

Wade Raulerson www.facebook.com/ Superior-Septic-Services-Inc-104197738044849 19500 CR 450 (904) 838-6500 Umatilla, FL 32784 superiorseptic1@gmail.com

#### SKIN CARE Mary Kay-Esther Atkins

Esther Atkins www.marykay.com/eatkins2010 (904) 608-5531 estheratkins2010@gmail.com

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Baker Prevention Coalition, Inc. Shira Callahan www.bakerprevention.org 85 West Railroad Avenue (904) 259-3922 Macclenny, FL 32063 director@bakerprevention.org

### **First Coast YMCA**

Lea Rhoden www.firstcoastymca.org

136 West Lowder Street (904) 259-0898 Macclenny, FL 32063 Irhoden@fcymca.org

### Florida Department of Health in Baker County

Meaghan Crowley baker.floridahealth.gov/ 480 West Lowder Street (904) 653-5242 Macclenny, FL 32063 meaghan.crowley@flhealth.gov

### **Guardian ad Litem Program**

Katie Zeile https://gal8circuit.org/ 14 South Main Street, Suite A (352) 359-6389 Gainesville, FL 32601 8th.recruitment@gal.fl.gov

#### **Northeast Florida AHEC**

Tonia Harris northfloridaahec.org 2223 Oak Street (904) 482-0189 Jacksonville, FL 32204 F:(904) 482-0196 tlind@northfloridaahec.org

### SPORTING GOODS/ SPORTS APPAREL

**Sports Shak**Wesley Mobley
535 South Sixth Street
(904) 259-2484

Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-0789 SportShak@nefcom.net

#### SWIMMING POOL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES Hagan Ace Hardware

Leonard Pittman www.haganace.com 6567 US Highway 90 West (904) 259-3451

Glen St. Mary, FL 32040 macclenny@haganace.com

### Gator Patrick Tavern

Tommy Corns 620 East Macclenny Avenue (904) 613-0734 Macclenny, FL 32063

### TAX PREPARATION Aligned CPA, LLC

Joy Lutz www.alignedcpa.com 224 E. Duval Street (386) 752-4005 Lake City, FL 32055 admin@alignedcpa.com

### **TELEPHONE SERVICES ACI Communications Corp**

Michael Santos www.acicom.net 9700 Philips Highway, Suite 102 (904) 737-5210 Jacksonville, FL 32256 msantos@acicom.net

#### **Comcast Business Services**

Tony Gilbert (904) 339-1125 anthony\_gilbert@comcast.com

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## Olustee Cemetery still holds the secrets, pain of brutal Civil War battle By Don Coble



OLUSTEE — A 12-foot marble cross serves as the hub in the middle of the tiny cemetery at the Olustee Battleground. It honors hundreds of Union troops who were killed on Feb. 20, 1864, in the bloodiest day in Florida history.

Historians believe more than 400 Union soldiers were buried throughout the battlefield site  $-\ 125$  of them in a mass grave believed to be at or near the cemetery.

Officially, Confederate and Union armies said a total of 296 soldiers died during the afternoon-long battle at Ocean Pond. But with 1,999 injured and another 512 reported missing or captured, the exact extent of the carnage will remain hidden behind the cloak of thickly forested wetlands and a lack of credible accounting. After all, it's hard to keep track when bullets and cannonballs are being shot.

The battlefield was forgotten for two years until Union Lt. Frederick E. Grossman was sent to Florida after the war to recover the North's dead. Despite missing hundreds, he managed to only find the remains of 125.

Some of the dead included soldiers from the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and the 35th United States Colored Troops, both composed of Black soldiers.

Many of the battle scenes for the movie "Glory" were filmed during a reenactment of the Olustee battle since the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment was featured in the movie.

While the cemetery holds the secrets of a confusing day of brutality nearly 159 years ago, there are more recent burials there.

There is a row of graves with concrete round-top covers for the Cason family. Some are neatly placed with elaborate engravings. Other gravesites are marked by carvings that appear to have been made by a knife.

The oldest readable grave dates back to 1918. Many markers, however, have been worn smooth or eroded over time.

What is thought-provoking is the fact both Blacks and whites now are buried at the same spot where the Confederate army defeated Union troops. And the primary function was dedicated solely to the fallen soldiers from the Union.

The original cross was made of wood, but it only lasted a couple of years. It was replaced by the marble monument in 1912.

On the southern side of the cross, "To the Memory of the officers and soldiers of the United States Army who fell in the Battle of Olustee February 20, 1864," is engraved. The west side marking reads, "Our Country," the north side reads, "May the Living Profit by the Example of the Dead" and the east side reads, "Unity and Peace."

The cemetery is part of the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. It's located at 5185 Battlefield Trail Road, off U.S. Highway 90, in Olustee. The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the cemetery is open to the public.

Admission is free into the park most of the year. The only time there's a fee is when the groups reenact the battle every February. The next reenactment is scheduled to be Feb. 17-19.







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#### **NEFCOM**

Klate Hancock www.nefcom.net 130 North Fourth Street (904) 259-2261 Macclenny, FL 32063 F:(904) 259-7722 khancock@nefcom.net

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### Purchase with a purpose: Rack Up Thrift Store serves Baker County

By Kylie Cordell

MACCLENNY – "People love junk," said Rack Up Thrift Store owner Michelle Hodges.

She opened the store at 6122 W. Macclenny Ave. in June 2018. Within the year, she immediately began assisting those in her local community.

"Forty-five percent of donations are dedicated to Veteran's groups, 45% is directed toward scholarships, and 10% goes towards children's missions," Hodges said.

Baker is currently donating a portion of her receipts to missionary

work in Nicaragua – the money goes to a family she met while on missionary work, and they assist those who need nutritional assistance.

"Many of the children are severely malnourished. For \$60, they can feed up to 60 children a real meal, with meat included," said Hodges. "That's really where the idea for the Thrift Store came from."

Rack Up has given sizable donations to local charities and organizations while continuing to donate overseas.

In December, Hodges presented a check for \$25,000 to local veterans organizations at Heritage Park during their monthly luncheon.

"It was split ibetween the Vietnam Veterans Association and the Baker County Veterans Council," Hodges said. "All that money stays in Baker County. For veterans to qualify for it, they have to live in Baker County."

Recently, the veteran organizations then gave \$6,000 to Meals On Wheels.

"We give them the money, but they choose where it's allocated. Usually, they have one big community project each year, plus they help their veterans," she said.

Donations like these are just a small part of the support she funnels to community resources.

"With the Baker County public schools, we do



scholarships. We do teacher grants. We do club grants, whatever is needed," she said.

Every year, Rack Up donates to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a lottery-funded scholarship to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement.

"Then there's a huge ceremony at the end of the year. It's wonderful to be a part of that and seeing Michelle up there handing out those

scholarships from Rack Up," said long-time volunteer Kelly Ferguson. "That's what it's all about, supporting one another."

Through the support of Rack Up, Hodges contributed \$16,000 to the Baker County Education Foundation, which provides grants to teachers and schools, as well as \$11,000 for the scholarship program. A new program in January will also allow teachers to fill out a form to request specific items for their classroom.

"(Hodges) asks the school system, from the teachers to the janitorial staff, what their needs are, they can fill out a form and we get them what they need," Ferguson said.

Rack up also donated bookbags, shoes, school supplies and clothes for the nurses' office. And in 2021, Hodges launched efforts to support teachers' chemotherapy treatments.

"She had to get them every day. So I called Baker County Rocks, and we raised over \$3,000 for that teacher in one morning," Hodges said.

The mission of Rack Up has impacted many, not only outside its walls but inside them as well.

"A lot of the customers here are people we have grown up with, so when I worked up front, everyone that came through those doors, I probably saw them every day. You know

(Continued on page 62)



everybody," said volunteer Blakely Mallory. "There's a lot of family, community-oriented people here."

Hodges agrees.

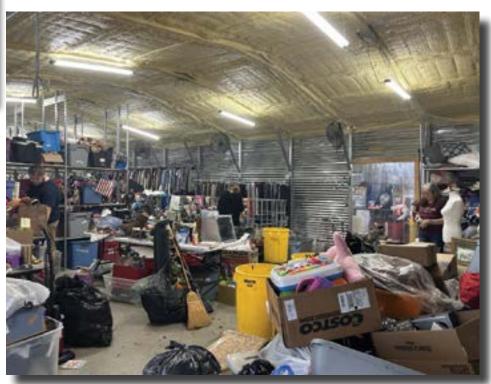
"They all need a place to belong. Many come daily, some once a week, and sometimes between shifts. Others might drop off their grandchildren at the school and say, 'I have an hour before I have to go pick them up for ball practice,' so it really does give people a space to belong," Hodges said. "It's the relationship that most people seek after. They come in to shop too, but that's not their particular need. It's about building relationships."

Besides donating to local schools, veteran organizations

and food distribution efforts, Hodges sends truckloads of merchandise to local churches to distribute to the local community.

"We purchased another building in Steam Hatchie, Florida. We drop off loads of stuff," Hodges said.

Rack Up's mission only continues to grow: to do its part in making our community a better place for everyone.



### **CHOOSE BAKER**

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