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Baker County

A Small Community with a **BIG** Future



Widely 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 2400 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.

The Chamber's 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. Baker County has many options to meet your needs for goods, services and entertainment. It doesn't matter if you are new to our area or a long time resident, it's never too late to get involved in the Chamber of Commerce.



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!

2021 Chamber Board of Directors

President: Trey Sinclair - Wells Insurance Vice President: Cyndi Ray - First Federal Bank Treasurer: Peggy Driggers - Westside Nursery & Preschool Joel Barber - Gibson McDonald Furniture Dr. James Cardozo - Baker Chiropractor Center Anita Crews - Country Federal Credit Union Christina Crews - VyStar Credit Union **Corey Crews - Phantom Fireworks** Shannon Curry - Blackburn-Curry Funeral & Cremation Lance Griffis - First Federal Bank Mike Griffis - 3G Toolboxes Leon Gross - Baker County Medical Services Klate Hancock - NEFCOM Tim Jacobs - Fidelity Bank Sam Kitching - Baker County Sheriff's Office Clay Lyons - Lyons & Lyons, CPA's Shelley Plemmons - The Beauty Parlor Sherrie Raulerson - Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline Robinson - TD Bank Donnie Sapp - Insteel Wire Sanderson Plant Chris Schrenker - Walmart DC

Chamber Staff

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

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A Small Community with a Big Future

Widely 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. And with its close proximity to transportation hubs and the First Coast, it makes living and working here appealing to industry, visitors and residents alike.

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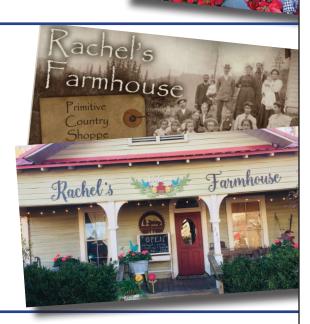
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S2A MODULAR TO BUILD FIRST EAST COAST MEGAFACTORY IN MACCLENNY

S2A Modular – creator of the first electrically self-sustaining, custom and smart-connected GreenLux[™] luxury residences and commercial buildings - has purchased 51 acres of land for its first East Coast MegaFactory in Macclenny, FL, 30-miles west of Jacksonville. The site is located in the Enterprise East Industrial Park, currently home to a major Walmart distribution center as well as several other small and medium-size businesses. Once operational, the company's third MegaFactory will feature approximately 13 buildings and structures totaling more than 240,000 square feet. The factory is expected to generate more than \$80 million of economic impact to the region - and an additional \$60 million in secondary impact due to the scale of its operations.

"The entire S2A Modular team is extremely excited to announce the location of our third MegaFactory in Baker County, and our first on the East Coast," said Brian Kuzdas, CEO and co-founder of S2A Modular. "We are grateful to Darryl Register, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and James Bennett, county commission chairman, for their work helping us find the perfect factory location. They were instrumental in finding shovel ready property which allows for the rapid construction of our MegaFactory and subsequent production of thousands of sustainable, affordable luxury homes for this region.





"Northern Florida is a prime location for us to help usher in the GreenLux[™] revolution – lowering the cost of living and raising the standard of living through electrically self-sustaining luxury smart homes and smart commercial buildings," Kuzdas continued. "Our homes and commercial structures are engineered to be the lowest amperage, lowest voltage buildings on Earth and we look forward to making a significant long-term impact to city of Macclenny, Baker County and the city of Jacksonville."

The land purchase in Macclenny was orchestrated with the help of the Baker County Economic Development Counciland the Baker County Chamber of Commerce. Located near Interstate 10 and several major state highways, Enterprise East Industrial Park's location offers S2A Modular several strategic advantages including access to a large skilled workforce, international airport, major rail lines and a rapidly growing population.

"As the county commission chairman, we are very excited to have S2A Modular choose Baker County as the location for their new manufacturing facility," said James Bennett, county commission chairman. "The sustainable aspects of the company, their products and the quality jobs they are creating are a great fit for Baker County and our region."

When fully operational, the world-class facility will manufacture annually 5,000 revolutionary GreenLux[™] luxury smart residences, smart commercial buildings, hotels and multifamily units. The establishment of a MegaFactory in Macclenny, in addition to the company's Mega-Factories in Patterson and Hemet, is part of S2A's rapid expansion plan to build a total of 35 MegaFactories across the nation by 2025. With S2A present within a region, home buyers and real estate developers will have ready access to higher quality, energy-efficient homes, hotels, multiuse facilities and commercial buildings produced in a climate-controlled factory using technologically advanced construction techniques. Economic development will be delivered from both the manufacturing facility, as well as the buildings that are manufactured there. S2A Modular currently has a rapidly expanding order pipeline of 100,000 homes and commercial buildings nationally.

"On behalf of the entire chamber of commerce, I am honored to officially welcome S2A Modular to Baker County," said Darryl Register, executive director of the Baker County Economic Development Council. "I thoroughly enjoyed helping them find the perfect location for their first East-Coast MegaFactory and am really looking forward to seeing its positive impacts on Baker County. Affordable, sustainable housing is definitely needed in this region and I am very impressed at how they are able to use renewable energy and new technologies to solve many of the issues facing our society."

S2A Modular plans to break ground late June of 2021.

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/ Our-Forests/State-Forests/John-M.-Bethea-State-Forest



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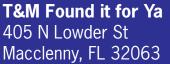


CRAFT BREWERY Crooked Rooster Brewery 1478 S 6th St Macclenny, FL 32063

LOCAL SHOPS The Weathered Wheel 6 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063 **Deerly Blessed** 43 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

The Village Store 1 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, FL 32063

Brick & Mortar 14 S 5th 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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 Image: County's First Microbrewery!

 Image: County First

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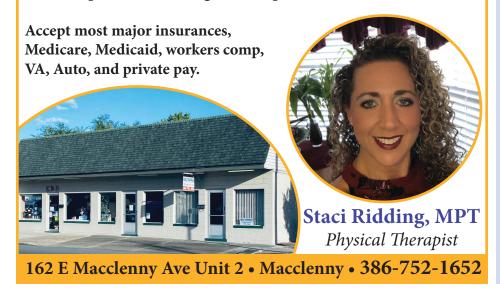
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City of Macclenny

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



Cecil Horne Jr. Commissioner



Phil Rhoden

City Manager

Danny Norton Commissioner



Sam Kitching Commissioner



Lynward Bones Commissioner



118 E Macclenny Ave • Macclenny, Fla. 32063 (904) 259-6261 City Hall • (904) 259-8420 Fax www.cityofmacclenny.com

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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 (904) 259-3613 • www.bakercountyfl.org



James A. Croft County District 1



Jimmy Anderson County District 2

HARRINGTON INSURANCE, INC.



Cathy Rhoden County District 3



James G. Bennett County District 4



Mark Hartley *County District 5*



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Macclenny Veterinary Hospital

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Joe Harrison, D.V.M. (904) 259-6782

macvet.vetstreet.com

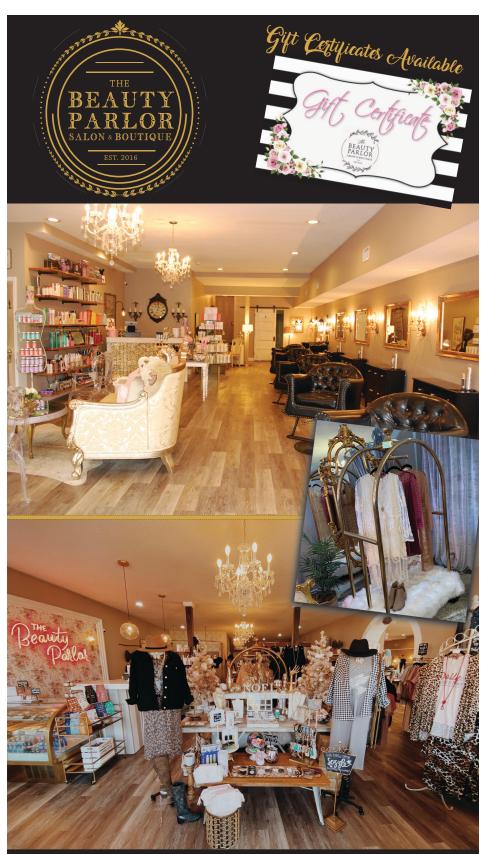


BAKER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING



Left to right: Judy Harvey, Terri Anderson, Tabitha Coffin, Cyleita Miller and Haley Harvey

Baker County Council on Aging, Inc. (BCCOA) provides support services to elders, families, and caregivers in our community. The BCCOA offers services and activities for the elderly. Services provided including but not limited to: Home Delivered meals that is prepared from our own kitchen, Congregate meals where seniors can come have lunch and socialize with others, engage in crafts, music and participate in monthly outings, Case Management which helps seniors navigate community based services, personal care assist with bathing, homemaking and errands, respite so a caregiver can get some time off from constant care, Emergency Alert Response system (EARS), EHEAP help with electric and propane bills to those that qualify and safe and dependable transportation to medical appointments, shopping, or to work. BCCOA is always in need of volunteers to help deliver Meals on Wheels. BCCOA has our Adopt a senior program this will provide meals to a senior until other funding is available. Anyone interested please contact the BCCOA at (904)259-2223.



Follow us @thebeautyparlorfl.com 2 East Macclenny Avenue • Macclenny (904) 259-9101 • thebeautyparlorfl.com

Baker County School District CTE Programs



Baker County High School offers a robust selection of Career and Technical programs that students can explore career pathways and earn post-secondary credentials, including industry certifications and dual enrollment credits. Each program offers a minimum of 3 courses that allows the student to gain a more complete understanding of the career field and to become a program completer. With the information taught in these programs, students are able to take and pass post-secondary industry certifications that give them a jump start on jobs in the field and/or are articulated to college credit in the degree that they are hoping to earn. Our goal is for students to leave high school prepared for their next step in life. Our current CTE programs include 4 programs in Agriculture (including Horticulture), Administrative Office Specialists, Applied Cybersecurity, Automotive, Business Management and Analysis, Criminal Justice,





Culinary, Digital Media, Electrical, Fire Fighting, Nursing Assistant (CNA, Phlebotomy and EKG), Sports Recreation and Education Marketing, and Teacher Cadet. Several of these programs have opportunities for students to do work-based learning. Our nursing assistant program allows students to do clinical rotations in local facilities and our culinary program allows students to work at a restaurant and catering. Students in the Digital Media program work different school events doing live coverage and editing. These hands-on experiences are invaluable for our next generation of employees. If you or your business would be interested in hosting students for work-based learning, please let us know. We would love to provide opportunities for our students to be embedded in our community in every field.





Town of Glen St. Mary

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 propor-

tions 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



6746 E Mount Vernon St. Glen St Mary, FL 32040 904-259-0011

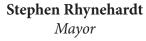
- 6,000 sq.ft. of climbing space 40' Climbing routes
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impressed with the community that he eventually invested in 12,700 acres of Baker County land making him the first real estate developer. Plotting out the town, he named the streets after U.S. presidents 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





Jeaneva "Annie" McCullough Council Member



Diana Reneau *Council Member*



one of the most successful pioneering families, the Tabers.

glory, the Glen St. Mary Nursery. All of this industry took place south of U.S.

ly 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 guite homey, with large oak trees lining our main street, planted by

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As a husband and wife team, we are here to guide our families through the worst time of their life. When someone experiences a loss, it's more than a business transaction. It's a life transition. We are here to help you through that life transition because we care about your family. What we do is more than our job, it's our calling.

Our funeral home offers both funeral and cremation options at an affordable cost without sacrificing quality of service. We are committed to excellence, compassionate funeral service, and helping families honor the lives of those they love. We are also licensed with the State of Florida to help families pre-plan and pre-pay for their final wishes.

As we continue to grow, we remain true to our vision of honesty and integrity. We are proving not all funeral homes are the same, one family at a time.



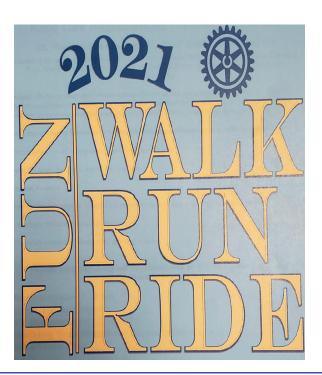
Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

THANK YOU for allowing us the privilege of serving your family at the time when care and love mean the most. We care about your family because you are family.

~ James, Shannon, and the entire staff of Blackburn-Curry Funeral Home

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2021 Rotary Club 5K Fun Walk, Run, Ride at St. Mary's Shoals Park



The Baker County Rotary Club's 5K Fun Walk, Run, Ride is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 7 a.m. for registration and an 8 a.m.-start time at St. Mary's Shoals Park, 7867 Odis Yarborough Rd. in Glen St. Mary. The family-friendly trail walk/run and dedicated off-road bicycle trails. Early registration will be from December 14 to January 8 at \$20 and race day registration at \$25 will be from 7-to-7:30 a.m. on February 6. Participate virtually for \$20. Registrations at Gibson McDonald or Calendars in Macclenny.



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GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF MACCLENNY 144 South 5th Street • Macclenny • (904) 521-5371



The object of this club shall be the social pleasure and self-culture of its members and a united effort to further civic movements.

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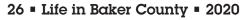
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BAKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE *Making a Difference Serving with Pride*



"I humbly thank my neighbors in Baker County for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff and work alongside some of the finest men and women in this country."

-Sheriff Scotty Rhoden



The Baker County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to improving the quality of life by creating a safe environment in partnership with the citizens we serve. As an organization, we are dedicated to achieving our mission through responsive and innovative leadership that is honest, transparent, efficient, and accountable to the citizens of Baker County. All members of this department will carry out their duties and responsibilities with the highest integrity, honor, and respect for the individuals they serve and the community they represent.



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A unique collection of community history showcasing the lives and traditions of generations from residents of Baker County, Florida.

Baker County, established in 1883 in northeast Florida is an area of rich history and colorful traditions. Many of the county's current residents are direct descendants of the pioneering families that settled in the 1800s. The legacy of



those families and the pioneer spirit and traditions they have passed down is today is preserved in the county's history here at Heritage Park Village.

Come and leisurely stroll along a horseshoe-shaped cement path that winds past numerous mini museums. Each museum showcases exhibits highlighting this unique slice of Florida community history including the county's fascinating moonshine era. In the beautifully restored Burnsed Blockhouse, the last of its kind remaining in the state of Florida, get an up close look at the architecture of early pioneer life. Note the rough,



hand-hewn timbers, rambling outdoor porches and detached country kitchen with its chimney constructed of moss and mud.

Enjoy a picnic in one of several covered pavilions or relax in the gazebo of the beautifully landscaped Serenity Gardens. Click on our Visits, tours and rentals page to see about using the park for more grand events. Come and have fun! We are glad you've chosen to visit our park and share in our unique heritage.

Heritage Park Village was designed to house Baker County's History, from its known documented beginnings through the year 2000. Its primary purpose is also to provide a place for Baker County families to

reflect, reminisce and honor their ancestors and unique heritage as well to help visitors connect with the county's history.





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THE LEGACY OF BAKER COUNTY



In 1829, the first documented wagon train arrived in the area bringing with it the Hogan, Barber, Drigger and Greene families. During the 1850s a community known as Darbyville, named for Colonel John Darby, was established. John Darby was a prominent merchant and owned a sawmill operation. Over the years, the county lines shifted numerous times but in 1861, Baker County was finally established. Darby's daughter Ada married Carr McClenny, an industrious

and enterprising young man.. Eventually Darbyville became known as McClenny. Descendants of this original McClenny family still spell their name in the original spelling. Long ago, a post master changed the spelling to Macclenny, eliminating the Capital C used in the original name. Heritage Park Village uses the original spelling.

Since those days and through the decades of the 20th century, McClenny has changed a great deal. But the one thing that has never changed is the tight-knit sense of family. The 20 heritage museums located on the park grounds are testimony to the history, industry and traditions of the people of Baker County. They are designed,

not as literal recreations, but to give a broad overview of the development of the community and showcase original items such as photographs, scrapbooks, oral testimonies and other artifacts which help recount our citizen's histories.

Heritage Park Village owes its establishment and existence to many community visionaries who believed in the project and contributed generously of time and funding to make it happen. The park's many volunteers who have given unselfishly over the years and continue to play a vital role in its upkeep and management are a treasured resource as well.

The Park is located at Heritage Park Village, 102 South Lowder Street in Macclenny. For more information call the park village office 259-7275 weekdays. or call City Hall at 259-6261.







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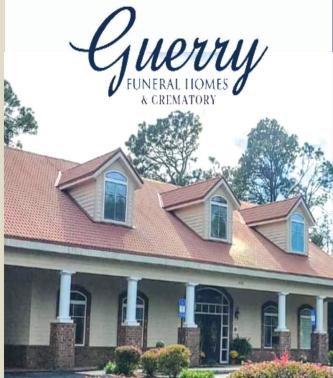
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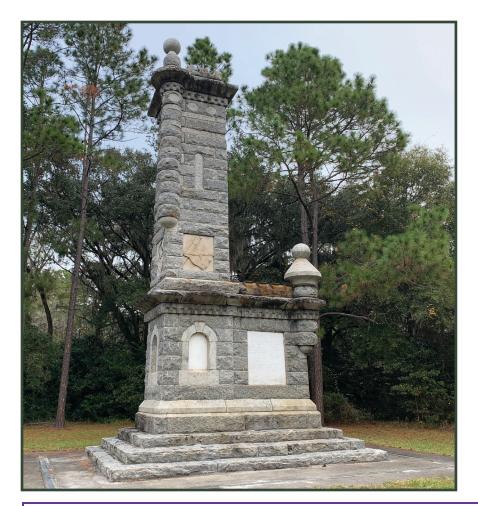


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Olustee Battlefield

In the early days of 1864, Gen. Truman Seymour arrived in Jacksonville (which had been seized by the Union two years earlier) to occupy North Florida and cut off the line of supply from the state to the other rebel armies. Gen. Seymour sent cavalry raiders began to harass the inland towns of Lake City and Gainesville to sever the Confederacy's railroad lines.

Confederate General Joseph Finegan had 500 at Lake City to stand against General Seymour's force of 5,500, as skirmishes began around the Olustee railroad station, near Ocean Pond, in what is now western Baker County. By the time the battle began in earnest, on February 20, 1864, the Confederates had 5,000 men.

The battle was fought in the pine forests, and raged throughout the day until the Union lines broke late in the afternoon. A retreat was supported by rear-guard action by the 54th Massachusetts Regiment and the 35th U.S. Colored Troops, both composed of African-American enlisted men. (The 54th Massachusetts Regiment had, six months earlier, fought a famous battle for Fort Wagner in South Carolina, commemorated in

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the Academy Award-winning movie Glory. Scenes for the movie were filmed at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park.)

The Union army retreated to Jacksonville, with 1,800 casualties. The Confederate Army had 900 casualties. The battle of Olustee was described later by soldiers from both sides as some of the fiercest fighting they experienced in the war. For the Union side, it was the one of the bloodiest, in terms of the percentage of men engaged who were killed, wounded or missing.

The Battle of Olustee was a Southern victory and a great encouragement to the Confederate side. And although supplies to its armies further north were disrupted, most of Florida remained in Confederate hands until the end of the war a year later.

The re-enactment is normally held each February.





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A message from 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 have six schools in our county, as well as, an Adult and Career Education Center that have instructional programs promoting the individual growth and success of our students.

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 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.



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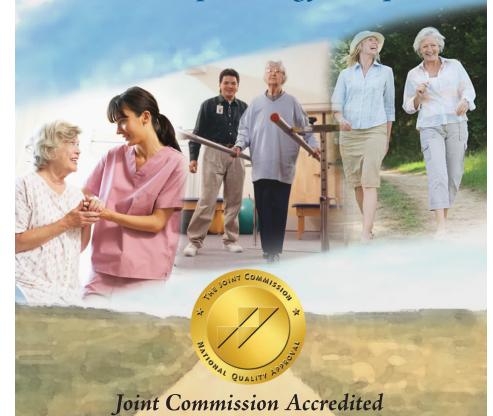
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Alone

Not with other people, pillows, blankets, or stuffed animals.

Not on an adult bed, sofa, cushion, or other soft surface.







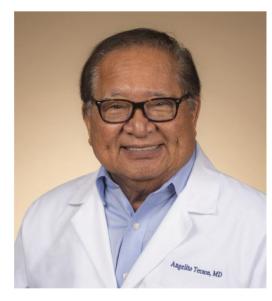


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