

Hotels: Rental properties appear to be in high demand

Continued from 1A

to be.”
 Be that as it may, Dixon has seen an uptick in reservations. “We have seen a modest increase,” Dixon said. “We may have some additional guests, but it’s not a sell out situation.”
 It’s a different story on St. Simons Island, viewed as ground-zero for Bulldog fans during the Georgia-Florida classic.
 In fact, the Holiday Inn Express on St. Simons Island is sold out, it’s reporting on its Web site.
 It’s not the only one getting a lift from excited football fans. Joe McDonough has also seen good

things. Both of his properties, the Ocean Lodge and the Beach Bed and Breakfast, are sold out.
 “Thank God for Georgia-Florida weekend,” he said. “Everyone forgets what’s going on around us and gets in a jovial mode. We’ve got guests that came in (Sunday) and going to be here all week.”
 McDonough is glad that attempts or proposals in the past to move the game to the campuses of the two universities fizzled out.
 “Thank goodness they decided to leave the game in Jacksonville,” he said. “It’s just too much of a tradition. People plan their week’s vacation around it. They get to come down here and enjoy

what the Golden Isles have to offer.”
 Other rental property is also moving fast. Chris Michael, manager of Hodnett Cooper’s Rental Properties, says demand is still great.
 “It’s been kind of the same as every other year. There’s been a real good demand for Georgia-Florida with no significant reduction,” he said.
 “We will probably be close to sold out. We have just over 400 properties and we usually have five to 10 units left.”
 • **Annual game brings out party spirit around the Golden Isles, 1B.**



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Escambia Brunswick Wood Preserving site project manager Brian Farrier, left, and Steven Smith, geologist with the Federal Services Division of Black and Veatch, examine a well used to monitor water levels on the completed cap on the western end of the site on Perry Lane Road.

United: Contributions steady

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grams.
 “We can’t grow the pot of money any larger,” he said, explaining that other partner agencies help out, too. “We partner with America’s Second Harvest to get free and low-cost food for our meal program.”
 Queener said the current economic situation is serious and highlights the need for United Way funding.
 The Salvation Army shelter currently houses 24 men and women and serves a hot dinner to an additional 40-50 people each day.
 Ellen Murphy, executive director of the STAR Foundation in Brunswick, also appreciates United Way. The Foundation teaches computer literacy, financial literacy and job readiness to low-income individuals who are enrolled through a screening process.
 Currently, her organization is able to offer only one eight-week class for 12 students per quarter, but with United Way funding,

another class will soon be underway. Murphy said she has the facility and enough applicants to offer four classes of 12 people each every quarter.
 “We’re down to one morning class per quarter and we had three times as many applicants as we had last year at this time,” Murphy said.
 The STAR Foundation partners with a number of area agencies and organizations and Murphy said she is looking forward to more collaboration among them.
 “It makes a community stronger when all resources are being leveraged,” she said. “Our goal is to get people to be self-sufficient.”
 United Way hopes to be able to fill these and other needs with a successful campaign this year. Missy Neu, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Coastal Georgia, said Monday that the agency has reached more than 30 percent of its goal of \$1.1 million for its annual campaign, which runs through the end of November.
 “I would suspect we will reach

40 percent in the next week or so,” Neu said.
 United Way of Coastal Georgia serves people in Glynn and McIntosh counties.
 To date, Georgia-Pacific is the only one of the agency’s top 15 workplace campaigns that has ended, and Neu said the company’s contribution was up 15 percent over the previous year.
 “Most of the top 15 campaigns will not report their figures to us until mid- to late November,” she said.
 While the major campaigns still have some time before they turn in their totals, smaller employees and individuals have been steadily contributing.
 Neu said that out of the smaller firms’ campaigns, giving has remained at the previous year’s level or has increased slightly.
 “In regards to individual giving, we have a number of donors (who) have increased their giving level and the majority (are) giving at the same level, but we still have a long way to go in terms of the numbers of contributions,” she said.

Clean: EPA will continue monitoring ground water

Continued from 1A

Creosote was a chemical used to treat wood and utility poles. Many of its components are known to cause cancer.
 The plant closed in 1991 due to bankruptcy.
 To isolate the large amount of contaminated soil, the cleanup team had to build large sub surface walls called “slurry walls” around the area.
 To make the dirt more manageable, the soil had to be excavated and undergo “solidification” – a process involving concrete that keeps the soil from being carried away by wind, rain and other environmental factors.
 Finally, a geological cap is put on the top to completely contain the soil in a huge subterranean box.
 After the projected 2010 completion date for treatment, the area can start to decontaminate.
 The EPA will continue to monitor the progress of the groundwater and determine whether there

is need for additional treatment.
 “We are doing a pilot study for the groundwater treatment,” said Steven Smith, a federal service geologist with the project.
 “We injected sodium perman-

genate into the soil to track the water movement.”
 Tracking the water movement, pressure and rate will help them find good readings for toxin tests in the future, Smith said.

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Statisticians reject global cooling

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Have you heard that the world is now cooling instead of warming? You may have seen some news reports on the Internet or heard about it from a provocative new book.
 Only one problem: It’s not true, according to an analysis of the numbers done by several independent statisticians for The Associated Press.
 The case that the Earth might be cooling partly stems from recent weather. Last year was cooler than previous years. It’s been a while since the super-hot years of 1998 and 2005. So is this a longer climate trend or just weather’s normal ups and downs?
 In a blind test, the AP gave temperature data to four independent statisticians and asked them to look for trends, without telling them what the numbers represented. The experts found no true temperature declines over time.
 “If you look at the data and sort of cherry-pick a micro-trend within a bigger trend, that technique is particularly suspect,” said John Grego, a professor of statistics at the University of South Carolina.
 Yet the idea that things are cooling has been repeated in opinion columns, a BBC news story posted on the Drudge Report and in a new book by the authors of the best-seller “Freakonomics.” Last week, a poll by the Pew Research Center found that only 57 percent of Americans now believe there is strong scientific evidence for global warming, down from 77 percent in 2006.
 Global warming skeptics base their claims on an unusually hot year in 1998. Since then, they say, temperatures have dropped — thus, a cooling trend. But it’s not that simple.
 Since 1998, temperatures have dipped, soared, fallen again and are now rising once more. Records kept by the British meteorological office and satellite data used by climate skeptics still show 1998 as the hottest year. However, data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA show 2005 has topped 1998. Published peer-reviewed scientific research generally cites

temperatures measured by ground sensors, which are from NOAA, NASA and the British, more than the satellite data.
 The recent Internet chatter about cooling led NOAA’s climate data center to re-examine its temperature data. It found no cooling trend.
 “The last 10 years are the warmest 10-year period of the modern record,” said NOAA climate monitoring chief Deke Arndt. “Even if you analyze the trend during that 10 years, the trend is actually positive, which means warming.”
 The AP sent expert statisticians NOAA’s year-to-year ground temperature changes over 130 years and the 30 years of satellite-measured temperatures preferred by skeptics and gathered by scientists at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.
 Statisticians who analyzed the data found a distinct decades-long upward trend in the numbers, but could not find a significant drop in the past 10 years in either data set.

The ups and downs during the last decade repeat random variability in data as far back as 1880.
 Saying there’s a downward trend since 1998 is not scientifically legitimate, said David Peterson, a retired Duke University statistics professor and one of those analyzing the numbers.

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