



## Kingsland veteran named to post

The Rev. Elliott Foss Jr., a retired U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, was named national chaplain of the American Legion.

Foss was sworn in for a one-year term during a ceremony Sunday in Reno, Nev., during the legion's 89th national convention.

Foss, a resident of Kingsland whose ministry has included Southside Baptist Church and Norwich Street Baptist Church, both in Brunswick, is a member of American Legion Post No. 317. Other churches he's served include Journey Baptist Church in Kingsland and United Methodist Church in Waverly.

He is a native of Bourne, Mass., and attended the Candler School of Theology and Emory University.

Foss has been a member of the 2.7 million American Legion for the past 11 years.

## County police need new cars

The Glynn County Commission will be asked to agree to pay \$750,000 for 24 vehicles for the Glynn County Police Department when it meets Thursday for its regular session.

The 24 will replace 24 high mileage vehicles.

The county will purchase 23 police Ford Crown Victorias for \$720,000 from Lilliston Ford in Darien and Kings Colonial Ford in Brunswick and a police Ford Explorer at \$30,000 from Lilliston Ford.

Commissioners also will hold public hearings on several rezoning requests, including a request to rezone 2,783 acres north of U.S. 82, west of Georgetown Road and south of Ga. 99 from forest agricultural to planned development. The project calls for a mixed development of residential, commercial and industrial units.

A maximum of 6,066 residential units are planned.

The commission will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the old county courthouse.

## Regional park group to meet

The Blythe Island Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee has been rescheduled due to the Labor day holiday.

The meeting will be held 4 p.m. Monday at the main office of the park.

## CORRECTIONS

The News does not like to make mistakes, but if we do, we will correct factual errors in space in this column.

## NEXT IN THE NEWS

In Wednesday's edition, **Local** reports on a possible drowning Monday night at East Beach on St. Simons Island. **Sports** looks at the improvements prep football teams are making between their first and second games and **Life** talks to teens about rivalry.

# Group, police seek to buy back guns

## Getting weapons off streets a major priority

By EMILY STRANGER and HANK ROWLAND  
The Brunswick News

Vivian Johnson of Brunswick and other members of the Anguilla Freedom Project would like to get guns off the streets.

The only way they know how to do that is to offer to pay for the weapons.

And that's exactly what they intend to do later this month.

Johnson's organization is teaming up with the Brunswick Police Department to sponsor a gun buy-back program from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 15 at Howard Coffin

Park.

Johnson is concerned about the recent explosion of violence in Brunswick. The shooting deaths of two teens have especially shaken her.

As assistant director of the Anguilla Freedom Project, a Brunswick group dedicated to educating young blacks about their heritage, Johnson's plan is to help curb the violence.

"We hope to accomplish combating some of the crime by purchasing some of the guns back from the younger people walking around with (guns) and teach them the dangers of guns," she said. "The focus is really on younger people because we've had so many incidents with young people being killed with guns."

Aaron Brennon, 15, was fatally shot Aug. 18 while standing in the 100 block of Stafford Avenue and Rolanda Roberts, 13, was fatally shot June 16 as she stood on Q Street.

Anyone who turns in a valid gun will be given \$50 — no questions asked, Johnson said.

"The police will examine the guns, but they won't be asking any questions like where the gun was purchased," she said.

Even a BB gun or cap gun will get a person a little cash — \$5.

Seized money, funds confiscated by city police during illegal activities, will be used to underwrite the program.

Johnson said any gun bought by police is one more gun off the streets.

"If we buy five guns back, that's five less crimes that could have been committed," she said. "We're just hoping that the young people will come out and give us these guns and stop shooting and hurting each other."

"We don't want this violence in our community, especially amongst our young people."

Brunswick Police Chief Edna Johnson could not have said it better herself. She's all for the program and is hopeful

of strong community participation.

Chief Johnson said the department will pay more for assault rifles.

"The more guns we can get off the streets, the better off we are," she said.

Contrary to popular belief, not all guns on the street were obtained illegally, she said.

"A lot of kids with guns in their possession will take them from their homes," Chief Johnson said.

"The buy-back program is something at least worth trying. If it turns out to be successful, then we may do it again."

She said the police department will provide \$3,000 in funding for the program.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Boys and Girls Club of Glynn art instructor Sam Ussery helps club members Roger Davis, from left, Chezyown Smith, Shawn White, Dominique Lang and Chris Mays with a beading project at the Terrell Thomas Unit. The Boys and Girls Club is one of 27 agencies that receive monetary assistance from The United Way.

# United Way sets lofty goal for priorities along coast

By HANK ROWLAND  
The Brunswick News

United Way of Coastal Georgia hopes to raise more money this year, but that's OK, says the chair of the campaign, Brunswick Police Chief Edna Johnson.

The organization's goal of \$1.5 million is well within reach. It collected \$1.3 million last year.

More is needed because Georgia's coast is growing, as well its needs, Johnson said.

United Way of Coastal Georgia, which kicked off its campaign in late August, covers Glynn and McIntosh counties.

"If we want to have a safe and healthy community, we have to do this," Johnson said. "United Way assists more than 26 agencies that are making sure we have a safer and healthier community."

Those agencies touch every age and every income group. They include Alzheimer's of Glynn/Brunswick, Hospice of the Golden Isles, Coastal Medical Access Project, First Steps and Glynn County Special Olympics.

United Way assists a number of youth organizations — an especially important connection to make note of given the violence that has wracked the community over the past month, Johnson said.

Some of the violence is thought to be gang-related, police have said.

Organizations supporting by contributions to United Way include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Club of Glynn — the best anti-gang weapons the community has at its disposal.

"The strongest way and the most effective way to prevent

## The United Way of Coastal Georgia

United Way of Coastal Georgia is based in Brunswick but serves both Glynn and McIntosh counties. It provides monetary assistance to 27 agencies.

- Alzheimer's of Glynn/Brunswick
- American Red Cross (Southeastern Georgia chapter)
- America's Second Harvest
- Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia
- Boy Scouts (Okefenokee Area Council)
- Coastal Area Support Team (CAST)
- Coastal Medical Access Project (CMAP)
- Communities in Schools — Glynn (CIS)
- First Steps
- Georgia Legal Services
- Girls Scouts of Savannah

- Glynn Community Crisis Center (Amity House)
- Glynn County Special Olympics
- Golden Isles Children Center
- Healthy Families
- Hospice of the Golden Isles
- Latin American Resource Center (LARC)
- Meals on Wheels
- MELD for Young Dads
- Salvation Army
- Senior Citizens Transportation
- Speech, Hearing and Rehabilitation Enterprises (SHARE)
- STAR Foundation
- Success by 6
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
- Hands on Coastal Georgia
- 211 Service

these kinds of problems is to provide strong youth groups that strengthen character," Johnson said.

Contributing to United Way, helping it to reach its goal, is something everyone can do, she said.

"Most of us have jobs and other responsibilities, but we can do our part by giving to United Way," she said.

Brian Dolan, director of the Boys and Girls Club, said programs in Brunswick and the Golden Isles serve 800 pre-teens and teens every day after school.

Don't think that it's a baby-sitting service because it's not, Dolan will stress to anyone who asks.

"We have quality programs that range from homework and tuition to arts and crafts," he said.

The Boys and Girls Club sponsors a unit on St. Simons Island and three on the mainland: one at McIntyre Court, one near Brunswick High School and a new one just opened at Sterling Elementary School.

Dolan hates to think where the 800 would go if the Boys and Girls Club did not exist.

"A lot of our parents are working and a need a safe place for kids to go after school," he said.

"The alternative is that the kids are out on their own and not being supervised. That's the largest opportunity of time for kids to get themselves into trouble, from 2 to 6 o'clock."

Contributions to United Way stay in the community and are tax deductible.

# Board to discuss parking spaces

By JOSH MESSER  
The Brunswick News

Should parking spaces at public schools be available for use by private entities after school hours?

That's a question the Glynn County Board of Education's Facilities Committee will discuss at its regular meeting today.

Millard Allen, chair of the facilities committee, said a new condominium development near St. Simons Elementary, 805 Ocean Boulevard, is hoping it can use the parking spots in front of the school during evening hours only.

Allen said the committee will first have to find out if the parking area in question, which is on Ocean Boulevard, is even school property or part of the county right-of-way.

If it is school property, Allen is not so sure he wants the spaces being used after school hours.

Details of the condominium owner's intentions for the

parking spaces are something the facilities group will discuss, as well as whether the spaces are school property or not, Allen said.

If the facilities committee determines that action is needed, Allen will recommend it at the board's next meeting, Sept. 11.

The committee will also discuss the possibility of subcontracting school maintenance work.

The school system's maintenance crew is sometimes stretched to the limit with the amount of work it has to do, Allen said. A group of two to three subcontractors that could assist, though only in times when the school's crew was unable to handle the workload, may be an option for solving the problem.

"We've recently had the addition of some schools, but we're not adding any maintenance staff," Allen said. "This would be a back-up. It will be like a line of credit: if we don't need it we won't use it, but if we do, we can."



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