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FAST NEWS

Police find two missing children

A frantic search by residents and police Tuesday for two children under the age of 4 on St. Simons Island had a happy ending.

The children, 1 and 3 years-old, were found by dusk not too far from their residence on Stevens Road, in the Commons area on the north end of the island.

According to county police, the mother of the children said the two wandered off.

One child was found before dusk and the other was found by police in the vicinity of Christ Church just before 8:30 p.m.

Kingston offers conduit for comments

U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-1, and other Republican members of the House have set up an online forum for those concerned with what's going on in America today, particularly in Congress and at the White House.

Kingston is especially interested in ideas and solutions to national problems.

The project and website is AmericaSpeakingOut.com. "The best solutions to our current problems do not come from the top," Kingston said. "In this present situation, we need to hear from those on the ground dealing with the effects of government on a daily basis."

Census workers knocking on doors

Census takers will continue visiting residences that failed to return a completed U.S. Census form through the first week of July.

Roughly 13,225 residences will be visited in Glynn County.

Efforts to visit homes in McIntosh County will be combined with half of Liberty and half of Long counties, adding up to just more than 14,000 residences.

Some 49 percent of households in Brantley County and 70 percent of Camden County residents returned completed census forms by the deadline.

Some 250 census employees will cover Glynn and McIntosh and 150 Brantley and Camden.

Households will receive a letter from the census bureau notifying them that they will receive a form, a phone call or a visit.

Census takers will have visible identification cards.

Rail-Trail dedication set for June 5

The first segment of the Georgia Coast Rail-Trail will open following a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. June 5 at the Post Office in White Oak in Camden County.

White Oak is just north of Woodbine on U.S. 17.

The first part of the trail is 3.5 miles long.

Trail lovers of all ages are encouraged to test the trail either on foot or bicycle.

The 10-foot wide hard-packed surface is the first part of a 68-mile trail that will run from Camden County to Liberty County, crossing Glynn and McIntosh counties.

Tea party leaves Chapman off list

Group cites low polling numbers for not inviting candidate to debate

By NEVIN BATIWALLA
The Brunswick News

Brunswick native and gubernatorial candidate Jeff Chapman is saying shame on the Atlanta Tea Party for leaving him out of a recent debate.

While the four Republican frontrunner candidates for governor — state Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, former U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal, former Secretary of State Karen Handel, and former state Sen. Eric Johnson — traded verbal jabs in Duluth, two

GOP hopefuls, Chapman and Ray McBerry, were not invited.

The event's organizers, FreedomWorks, did not extend the invitation to them. Organizers cited their poor showing in voter preference, 2 percent, in a recent poll.

Before the debate, tea party activist Debbie Dooley released a statement to justify why the two were excluded.

"They are polling below 2 percent two months out from the primary," she said. Primary elections will be July 20.

"We want to be focused on is-



Chapman

sues during this debate and not controversy," Dooley said. "We feel strongly that two of the top four will go to a runoff and want to be able to fully discuss the issues."

The decision and explanation didn't sit well with Chapman, a former state senator who considers himself the anti-establishment choice who often challenges his own party.

"Tea Party members around the nation are declaring, 'We have come to take our government back,'" Chapman said in a

statement released following the debate. "But in Georgia, leaders of the Atlanta Tea Party have sold out to establishment politics. Shame on them."

While he agrees with Dooley that "a runoff is almost a certainty," who will compete in it is far from certain, he said.

"The truth is that today's voters are confused and looking for answers," Chapman said.

"The real leader in the GOP race is not one of the top four candidates, three of whom are polling in the teens or well below, but the candidate supported by the undecided voter, polling at 40 percent."

Democratic gubernatorial candidates were invited to the debate, but none accepted.

Teachers, students prepare goodbyes

Graduation ceremonies begin today

By ERIKA CAPEK
The Brunswick News

Graduation coordinators at Brunswick High School and Glynn Academy say it will be bittersweet to watch this year's class of seniors receive their diplomas.

Angie Votsis, senior guidance counselor at Glynn Academy, said after the graduation ceremony she will have to start the process all over.

She has been following the Class of 2010 the past three years and said it has been a great group.

Votsis is excited to see the students begin the next phases of their lives, but is also sad to see them leaving.

"It's kind of like your children when you send them off to college," Votsis said about the bitter-sweet ending.

She would get no argument from Gayla Kowalchuk, senior class sponsor and graduation coordinator at Brunswick High School. Kowalchuk said she often wonders where the seniors will end up, which ones will return to visit, which ones won't and if they will be successful.

The best part for her, however, is watching the graduates walk across the stage to receive their di-



Nick Nichols/The Brunswick News

Glynn Academy seniors Devan McInnis, from left, 17, and Mariah McGahee, 17, practice singing for their graduation scheduled for Wednesday night. They rehearsed the school's alma mater and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with other senior girls in the school's auditorium on Tuesday morning.

plomas.

"It's really rewarding to come off that stage and see them smile," Kowalchuk said. "They're great kids."

Brunswick High School will have 300 graduates, similar to last year. Glynn Academy has about

355 graduates, more than the 326 in 2009.

Votsis said the increase in the number of graduates could mean that there were fewer dropouts because of opportunities for credit recovery with E2020 computer labs.

Glynn Academy will hold grad-

uation at 8 p.m. today at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. Brunswick High School will graduate its seniors at 7 p.m. Thursday in the gymnasium.

Family and friends should arrive about an hour before each of the ceremonies, organizers said.

Grants given to spark volunteerism, more

The Brunswick News

College of Coastal Georgia and four nonprofit organizations in Brunswick and the Golden Isles will receive more than \$200,000 in grants from the St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation.

The 10 recipients of \$749,475 in spring 2010 grants, which included the five in Glynn County, were announced Monday. Funds will be awarded in June.

The foundation administers a \$60 million bequest from the estate of businessman Warren Bailey that was established 10 years ago. At that time, it was generally believed to be the largest single donation to a church in the United States.

Among the new grants, College of Coastal Georgia will receive the largest grant in the community, at \$75,000. It is the first to be awarded over a two-year period for the start of the Center for Service Learn-

ing, which will provide students a chance to spend one semester in a service learning course.

The goal of the program is to cultivate volunteerism, the foundation said.

A non-denominational religious program for teenagers, The Gathering Place, will receive \$20,000 to set up a ministry program at the college in Brunswick.

Habitat for Humanity of Brunswick will receive \$50,000. The

funds will buy land to develop a 6- to 12-house community.

Just over \$57,500 will go to Glynn Community Crisis Center and Amity House to continue providing emergency shelter to families in crisis situations, and \$25,000 will be given to the STAR Foundation for an additional instructor. The STAR program provides low-income individuals job training and teaches them to be self-sufficient

State Patrol to begin issuing electronic tickets

By LOUIE BROGDON
The Brunswick News

Georgia State Patrol officers in the coastal area will soon be able to check drivers' records, issue citations and file reports electronically from their patrol cars.

Statewide, the patrol is moving away from paper tickets, in favor of an electronic ticket reporting system that will streamline the citation process and reduce errors, Troop I Commander Robert Phillips said.

"The system will allow troop-

ers more time on the road, and it will automatically send the tickets (electronically) to the clerk of court," Phillips said. "That will save on manpower for us, and the courts won't have to enter the tickets by hand."

Currently, the coastal troopers can print tickets in their cars, but twice a week they must deliver those tickets to the appropriate courts. Because those courts are spread over 15 counties, a great deal of time is spent transporting tickets, Phillips said.

Some of the updates are already

in use. Troop I officers have portable information terminals in their cars to enter driver information and print tickets, but the records aren't automatically transferred and officers can't scan drivers' licenses yet, Phillips said.

"One of the things that we ran into when we started is that Georgia didn't have a swipeable license, but we do now," he said.

Once more drivers get new licenses, the patrol will get the hardware to swipe the licenses, which will reduce user error.

For Troop I, the update started

in early February with the opening of a centralized communications center in Brunswick.

"This computer system is awesome. The only drawback is if something goes down, it's down everywhere," Phillips said.

If the system would have a hiccup, troopers will be able to write paper citations and enter them into the system later, Phillips said.

The electronic system is mainly being used now by Georgia State Patrol, but the state wants local agencies to use it, too.

CRIME Scene

Daughter refuses to get in car

Among reports filed with Brunswick police:

Problems with Persons
• **1100 block of Ellis Street, Brunswick:** Police

responded Thursday to a report of someone smashing the rear window in a woman's car. The woman said she was inside her house when she heard her dog barking followed by the sound of glass breaking.

The woman said she went outside and saw someone running away from her yard. She let her dog out to chase the person, but she said the dog came back after the person left the area.

She said the unknown person broke the rear window out of her SUV, but nothing was removed. The damage was reported at \$500.

• **4500 block of Altama Avenue, Brunswick:**

Police responded May 19 to a report of a domestic problem. A woman said she and her daughter got into an argument while they were shopping for a prom dress for her daughter. The woman said she slapped the daughter and now the daughter wouldn't get back in the car with her.

The woman was informed that her daughter was 18-years-old and did not have to get back in the car with her. The woman was also told she could be arrested for domestic violence under the family violence act.

The woman and daughter agreed to separate and speak rationally later. No arrests were made.

• **2000 block of Old Jesup Road, Glynn County:**

Police responded May 19 to a report of a domestic problem. A man was arrested for damaging a metal front door of a residence. The damage was reported at \$100. The man was arrested for criminal trespass and destruction of property in the 2nd degree.

Thefts
• **100 block of Altama Village Drive, Glynn County:**

Police responded May 19 to a report of shoplifting. A woman said she was at her shop and watched a couple come in and steal a number of items from the shelves on her security camera. She said the couple took some shampoo, conditioner and some hair butter. She said she followed the couple to their car and told them if they gave the items back she wouldn't call the police. The couple drove off. The hair butter and other products were valued at \$20.

— Louie Brogdon
The Brunswick News

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