

## Local &amp; State

## TODAY'S PEOPLE

Monday Unsung heroes Tuesday New neighbors Wednesday Top teens Thursday Unsung heroes Friday Up and comers

## Volunteer finds friends at STAR

By KRISTA HARRIS  
The Brunswick News

Life isn't always easy. There are ups and downs, but somehow as human beings we survive.

Mary Miculek has had her share of downs, but right now is climbing back up to the top. She's determined to get back on her feet and thanks to the STAR Foundation, Miculek is well on her way.

"The STAR Foundation is wonderful," Miculek said. "They touch on every aspect of your life."

She learned quickly that the STAR Foundation doesn't only teach basic computer skills, but life skills as well.

"They help all the students set goals ... then make it possible to achieve them," she said.

A variety of speakers come through the doors to talk about interviewing, being positive, going back to school and having good credit. Miculek took all that advice to make her life better.



Krista Harris/The Brunswick News

Mary Miculek says the STAR Foundation is wonderful and touches on every aspect of life.

After moving to Brunswick from New Orleans, Miculek knew it was time to get her computer skills up to date. She didn't have to work for nearly 10 years, but, now that she does, realized technology has changed since she sat behind a desk. The foundation taught her the new and updated Microsoft Word and Excel. She was even allowed to try

out the advance Excel class.

STAR Foundation is even assisting her with finding a job. Miculek is ready to test her new skills and positive attitude in the work environment.

"STAR teaches you to be a good citizen, to go vote, give blood and get a library card," she said, adding that she has visited the library often since

## Another side

Mary Miculek:

- Received a computer from the STAR Foundation.
- Has lived in Brunswick for six months.
- Loved working on the travel packs for MAP International that volunteers fill with medicine for developing countries.

her STAR classes.

STAR Foundation is not the only place Miculek has spent her time. She volunteered at MAP International after her classes.

"I loved it there," she with a small smile. "It was a great place to work."

Miculek has learned to take one day at a time and that when life gives you lemons, you have to make lemonade.

*— If you have a suggestion for a person you would like to see featured in Today's People, call Krista Harris at 265-8320.*

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## Dogfighting may be felony

① **Atlanta:** People who host dog fights or train their canines for dogfighting could face felony charges under a House measure approved Wednesday by a legislative committee.

The bill would for the first time make it a felony to host or bet in a dogfight, and to sell, train or transport fighting dogs. A first offense would carry a prison term of up to five years, a minimum \$5,000 fine or both.

It would also allow prosecutors to charge dog fight spectators with a misdemeanor.

A similar proposal was approved in the Senate last year but never reached a vote in the House.

But animal rights activists say the case of Michael Vick, the Atlanta Falcons quarterback who was sentenced to 23 months in prison on federal dogfighting charges, has given the proposal a new sense of urgency.

Dogfighting is already illegal in Georgia, but current law allows only people caught in the act to be charged with a misdemeanor. Critics say the lax laws make it difficult for prosecutors to pursue charges against people who breed fighting dogs and set up matches.

① **Atlanta:** Court officials say the 80-year-old leader of a suburban Atlanta megachurch pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge he lied under oath.

Cobb County Superior Court Judge Frank Cox said Archbishop Earl Paulk of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at Chapel Hill Harvester Church was sentenced to 10 years probation and a \$1,000 fine for the felony charge.

Paulk turned himself in to authorities Tuesday night after a warrant was issued for his

## InSTATE



Numbers on stories correspond to map locations. The star locates Brunswick.

arrest the previous day. The charges stem from a deposition Paulk gave as part of a civil lawsuit against him, his brother Don and the church by a former church employee who says she was coerced into an affair.

In a 2006 deposition for the lawsuit, the archbishop said under oath that the only woman he had ever had sex with outside of his marriage was former church worker Mona Brewer.

But the results of a court-ordered paternity test revealed in October that Paulk is the biological father of his brother's son, D.E. Paulk, who is now head pastor at the church. As part of Brewer's lawsuit, eight women have given sworn depositions that they were coerced into sexual relationships with Earl Paulk.

Paulk's attorney, Joel Pugh, said he had been working with Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head for weeks on negotiating a deal.

"It was a fair and just resolution of the case for a man who has lived his whole life and done wonderful things but made a mistake," Pugh said.

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