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Your day in Brunswick and the Golden Isles

The Weather

HIGH **72** LOW



Be cautious when driving in fog

There will be areas of dense fog this morning with visibility one-quarter mile or less at times. Skies will be mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Tides and five-day forecast,

Worth doing

Put this on your New Year's list

Freshstart, the American Cancer Society Quit Smoking Program, is looking for nonsmoking volunteers to help others stop smoking. If you would like to help someone stop smoking, contact the American Cancer Society at 265-7117. For those who need immediate assistance with quitting, contact the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line at (877) 270-STOP.

Worth knowing



Shasta Fahs

Educator gives back to community

As an educator at Glynn Academy, Shasta Fahs strives to reach out to the children who might otherwise fall through the cracks. The teenagers with academic and behavioral issues tug at her heartstrings and make her determined to help them realize they can succeed. Today's people, 3A

Talk about

Volunteering vital to our community

If you have volunteered your organization, business or church as a food collection site, then on behalf of the community and those who are - or who will be - in need of your time and effort, thanks. Editorial, 6A

Get involved

Recycle gift boxes and wrappings

After all the hustle and bustle dies down, take your leftover boxes and wrapping paper to Southland Waste, 420 Perry Lane Road, Brunswick, for recycling. It's free, it's good for the community and good for Mother Earth.

Jail battle persists

Contentious issue still faces obstacles in 2009

By EMILY STRANGER

The Brunswick News

The jail issue is one that is not expected to go away anytime soon. In fact, it will follow the community into 2009.

The issue of where to create additional space for an increasing inmate population - at the existing detention center downtown or another site outside the city – is bound to be revisited when three new Glynn County commissioners are seated in January.

There is one premise that all agree on: Glynn County needs

LOOKINGAhead

2009 community issues

more space for prisoners.

Glynn County Commission Chair Don Hogan, still solidly behind the proposal to expand the current facility, said he looks forward to working with new commissioners Amy Callaway, Tom Sublett and Bob Coleman.

He said a temporary jail facility at the old public works complex on U.S. 341 may have solved the overcrowding situation for the time being but stressed that it won't suffice in the long-term.

Hogan said the female pod that is part of the expansion plan is imperative for Glynn County's inmate population.

"Our growing jail population is female, and it's not fair the way they're being housed because they're being housed in a maximum security facility," he said. "They need their own minimum security facility."

He said he will continue to support his vote to expand the downtown facility, calling it the less costly alternative to taxpayers.

"We're going to have to face it



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

The proposed site for the expansion of the Glynn County Detention Center downtown is shown above.

one way or another," said Hogan. "I don't know what the end result will be, but I'm not for spending a lot of money to build a whole other jail. I have no idea what it would cost to build a whole other maximum security facility, but I know it would be tremendous."

Please see JAIL, 5A

Fire doesn't dim spirit

DECEMBER 26, 2008

Family thankful for community's generosity

By ANNA FERGUSON The Brunswick News

In the early hours of Monday morning, the Walthour family awoke to the smells of smoke. Suddenly, their house on Norwich Street was engulfed by flames.

Fleeing from their home, the family watched helplessly from the street as fire ate their safe haven and destroyed all their posses-

The Walthour family had lived in the house in the 2700 block of Norwich Street for more than a decade. But in an instant, it was little more than a smoldering heap

An entire side of the home was taken out by the fire; the remaining walls were damaged by smoke and water. It seems there was nothing left to salvage.

The pile of Christmas gifts, as well as furniture, clothing and photographs, were gone.

At 4 a.m. Monday, Shawn Williams received the call that his relatives - Dorothy Walthour, her adult daughter, Kris Walthour, and Kris Walthour's 11-year-old son, Kshawn Walthour - were now without a home.

They also were without a Christ-

"That's not the kind of phone call you want to wake up to," said Williams. "Their home is uninhabitable, and they have nothing left.

"It's a horrible story, but it's a great Christmas story at this



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Dorothy Walthour, left, starts crying as she and her daughter, Kris Walthour, look through the remains of their Norwich Street house that burned Monday.

time."

Indeed it is proving to be just that – a story with an ending worthy of Christmas.

Williams and Christy Krisfalusi, both of whom serve with the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Glynn program, immediately pieced together a support network to aid the family. They made phone call after phone call, and sent email after

email, alerting everyone they knew or had contact with in the community to the Walthours' situation.

Little did they know it at the time, but all their calls and emails set off

an outpouring of generosity. Within a day, the community was lending support. Donations of furniture and money rolled in. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army both stepped in with helping hands, and Harmony

Square and Rotary Club are working with the family to secure additional necessities.

The King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort on St. Simons has also offered aid, donating Christmas gifts for Kshawn, his mother and his grandmother.

People have been eager to help, creating a domino effect of charity

Please see FIRE, 5A

Man calls for stricter trailer laws

By HANK ROWLAND

The Brunswick News

Ron Melancon can't believe it.

The 44-year-old Richmond, Va., crusader says the number of accidents and deaths caused by trailers that are unsafe or which are improperly secured to vehicles screams for attention, yet only one state is toughening the law to combat the problem – his own, Virginia.

Georgia is not immune, and that includes

Glynn County, where a runaway trailer claimed a life almost a year ago.

Just look at the nationwide figures since 2003, Melancon will tell anyone who will listen. The data was compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- Number of persons killed: 2,239
- Number of persons injured: 122,500
- Number of vehicles, trailers and other property damaged: 342,000

"We have people dying in Idaho because of trailers," he said. "We got people dying in Las Vegas. Can we connect the dots?"

Just this past week, a speedboat broke loose from the hitch of a pickup truck while being towed and landed on top of another vehicle in Albany. Fortunately, none of the three persons in the car was hurt.

A woman in Glynn County wasn't so lucky.

Please see TRAILER, 5A

Top stories inside today's News

2A

Pastor answers call to give

Local & State

The Rev. Dee Shaffer to expand Harmony Square

7A **Nation & World**

Pope appeals for solidarity in hard times

Pontiff calls for world to cling to hope

9A **Sports**

Camden wins it all

Take a look back at the Wildcats' amazing season

in football

12A **Business**

Faith-based investing has 2-fold returns

Some companies offer funds based on religious values

1B Life

Chef pairs music, food, good times

Coastal Kitchen puts new spin on dining out

Inside The News

Life B

Comics 5B

Commentary 6A

Entertainment 4B

Local & State 2-3A

Crossword 5B

Lotteries 3A

Obituaries 4A

Sports 9-11A

TV schedule 4B

Sudoku 5B

Sports A

3 sections /44pages

Advice 3B **Billy Graham** 6A **Business 12A** Classified ads 6B

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Community events and people Regular views of people and activities updated during the week and in an archive library

Available: See how some people are helping a cancer patient.

Available: Watch children sing at a nursing home.

A weekly newsmagazine format of local sports, new at 6 a.m. Fridays and then available anytime

New: Find out who area football fans like in upcoming bowl games and how the News sports staff rates their predictions.

Podcasts Free audio at

www.The BrunswickNews.com

Daily news: Radio-style news beginning at 6 a.m. and updated at 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Sports talk: Listen to the sports staff talk about the Atlanta Falcons' division title prospects, available after noon.

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