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Local

Details revealed in custody death

Glynn County police have released the cause of death as atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease for a Brunswick man who died while being taken into police custody. 2A

Nation

Fat Tuesday parades roll on

Mardi Gras revelers continued the party Tuesday, lining the streets of New Orleans for the Fat Tuesday parades that have made the city such a famous Mardi Gras destination. 8A

World

England setting Iraq withdrawal

England's prime minister, Tony Blair, is set to announce the beginning of a withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, starting with 1,500 troops returning over the next several weeks and a total of 3,000 troops home by the end of the year. 7A

Sports

Brunswick golf teams ready

The Brunswick High School boys and girls golf teams are set for the 2007 golf season, led by junior stand-outs Katie Burnett and Brooks Fraser. 1B

Business

Race, holiday draw crowds

Golden Isles hotels were full over the weekend due to the kickoff race for the NASCAR season and the President's Day weekend. 10A

Weather



Mostly sunny Tomorrow

High 71 Low 49

Forecast, 12A

Index

News / A Life / C Sports / B

3 sections/28 pages

Advice 4C

Billy Graham 6A

Bridge 7B

Business 10,11A

Classified ads 5C

Comics 7B

Commentary 6A

Community Life 4C

Crossword 7B

Entertainment 5B

Life 1C

Local & State 2-4A

Lotteries 3A

Obituaries 4A

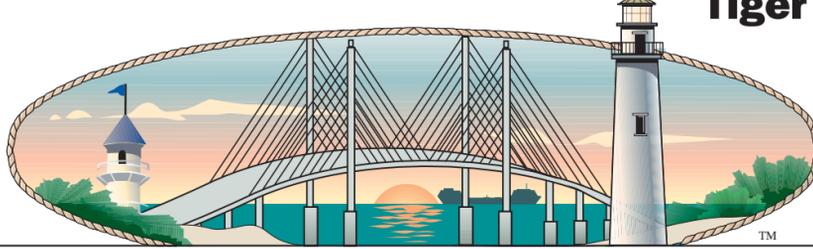
Sports 1-4,8B

Television schedule 6B



Student focusing on the future

Today's People, 3A



Tiger hunting for win



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fifty cents

Will Georgia be on their minds? Island rep pushing early primary

By GREG BLUESTEIN The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republican leaders are backing an effort to push Georgia primaries up by a month so the state can play a greater role in the presidential primary.

A measure filed Tuesday would move the 2008 primary from March 4 to Feb. 5 in hopes of creating a "national primary day," said House Majority Leader Jerry Keen, a sponsor of the measure.

Arkansas, Delaware, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona and Utah are already planning primaries for Feb. 5. And California, New Jersey, Illinois are among other states looking at moving up to early February.

"We do not want Georgia left out of the process," said Keen, R-St. Simons. "We want Georgia to be in play."

The current presidential lineup starts with the Iowa and Nevada caucuses.

Please see VOTE, 5A

Presidential contenders



John McCain

Barack Obama



Rudy Giuliani

Hillary Clinton

City stalls water deal

Commission uneasy about county merger

By LAUREN MCCALLISTER The Brunswick News

If the Brunswick City Commission were to vote now on a merger of the city and Glynn County water and sewer systems, the measure would fail.

A majority of commissioners, including Mayor Bryan Thompson, said during a meeting Tuesday they did not feel comfortable approving the drafted operational agreement – approved by the Glynn County Commission last month – in its present form.

The commission decided to defer final action on the merger until its March 7 meeting. It also agreed to hold a workshop with the Joint Water Sewer Commission during the interim two weeks.

Commissioners did vote to spend a maximum of \$350,000 from the city's reserve account to cover swimming pool construction expenses at Howard Coffin Park.

The money will be paid back when SPLOST V funds become available next month. Commissioners also ordered to staff to keep them abreast of the construction schedule. Work on the project has come under fire since commissioners learned it was over its budget two weeks ago.

While all five commissioners were united in concern about the pool, only two voiced support for the water-sewer merger plan in its current form. "We have areas of concern," Thompson said. "We are being asked, in the way (the operating agreement) is structured right now, to take a leap of faith, to link arms and take a step into the dark."

Thompson said certain areas of the agreement are too vague and a decision that could impact city residents for 50 years should be broached with caution and consideration.

"We will make these decisions on our time frame, not on anybody else's time frame," he said.

Glynn County Commission Chair Tony Thaw, who was present at the city meeting but left before the vote was taken to defer action, said it is unfortunate the city decided to hold the vote for another two weeks.

"It's a 'yes' or 'no' situation," Thaw said when contacted after the meeting. "You either want to move the

Please see CITY, 5A

PAST COMES TO LIGHT



James Nix/The Brunswick News

Fourth-grader Kyle Mowatt, from left, Jim Mowatt, and fourth-graders Anna Bridwell and William McCloskey sift through dirt looking for artifacts at Fort Frederica during Oglethorpe Point Elementary School's archaeology lab Tuesday.

Trailer hazards start crusade Causeway accident among tragedies activist citing

By EMILY STRANGER The Brunswick News

NEWSFocus on highway safety

Ron Melancon considers himself a simple man.

"I'm just a nobody who works in a department store," he said.

But this nobody from Richmond, Va., has already changed one state law and is campaigning to change laws in the other

49 states.

It's a crusade that started five years ago, when Melancon, 43, was returning home from a library with his 5-year-old son.

He rear-ended a utility trailer being pulled by a pick up truck in front of him.

He didn't even see it coming. Literally. "I kept asking myself why didn't I pick up on the trailer, when it occurred to me that the trailer had a design flaw," he said. "The trailer was a see-through trailer, and it had nothing on or in it to give it some depth."

The trailer had no brake lights or

Please see TRAILERS, 5A

Glynn representatives stand with Bush Kingston, senators backing plans for troop increase in Iraq

By HANK ROWLAND The Brunswick News

Georgia Republicans are standing firm with President Bush.

U.S. Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson, as well as Rep. Jack Kingston, say the nation must remain committed to Iraq until the new government is able to take care of itself.

Nothing surprising there, say Glynn County Democrats and peace activists. The trio of Republican politicians is just playing the political game of follow the leader, and they're doing it

despite the message sent Congress by voters this past November, opponents say.

Chambliss, Isakson and Kingston are against the Democrat-led charge for a resolution condemning the strategy advocated by president, who is sending 21,500 more troops to the Mideast country.

Both Isakson and Chambliss were among the 34 senators who foiled the Senate's effort to force debate on the nonbinding resolution. The 56-34 vote was short of the 60 needed.

To Isakson, it was an easy decision.

He supports the plan outlined by the president, saying it's the best hope the Iraqi government has of gaining control of the country.

"Our enemies and the enemies of the Iraqi people watch our actions and listen to our words," Isakson said. "Our commander-in-chief has committed our armed forces to a plan, and the Iraqi government has committed to be a full partner."

"At such a critical time, when our country is committed to a major battle in the overall global war on terror, the words of Congress should not send a

mixed message to our troops, the Iraqi people or our enemies."

Chambliss, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, opposed the resolution on the Senate floor. He said it was contrary to the plan favored by Gen. David Petraeus, a man the Senate approved Jan. 26 for a fourth star and to be commander of the multinational forces in Iraq.

"In my 12 years in ... Congress, I do not think I have seen members of Congress express any higher confidence or support for a nominee for any position than they have for Gen. David Petraeus," Chambliss said. "I have not

Please see BUSH, 5A