

Christ Church home tour is outreach to community

Life, 1B



Chair Lynn Nazzaro, left, co-chair Beth Smith

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IN THE NATION

WASHINGTON: Regional airlines are having difficulty finding pilots to fly shorter commuter routes, **7A**

GLYNN COUNTY

BRUNSWICK: Three men involved in a "knockout game" attack remain jailed, while one gets bond, **2A**

CAMDEN COUNTY

ST. MARYS: A town hall meeting will be a chance to discuss the impact of rising sea levels, **4A**

DAYBREAK
Your weekend in Brunswick and the Golden Isles

The Weather

Saturday
HIGH **68**
LOW **48**

Sunday
HIGH **69**
LOW **53**

Warm up continues through weekend

After a high temperature Friday that just barely crossed 60 degrees, weekend highs will push closer to 70. That will put them a few degrees above the normal of 66. Despite partly cloudy skies, there is no chance of rain. Patchy fog will develop after 3 a.m. Sunday and lift by 9 a.m.

Tides and five-day forecast, back of this section

Worth doing

Chili cookoff heats up St. Simons Island

Don't let the name scare you if you like your chili mild, because the Rotary Club of the Golden Isles' Red Hot Chili Cookoff will have an intensity for every taste. It will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Neptune Park, at the southern terminus of Mallery Street, St. Simons Island. Adult admission is \$8, children 10 years old or younger are \$3.

St. Mary's Mardi Gras parties in downtown

The St. Marys Mardi Gras, complete with floats like the little number they do in New Orleans, will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in downtown St. Marys. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. The festival, with live entertainment throughout the day, will run until 5 p.m. — plenty of time for the 40,000 people who typically attend to get there.

Worth knowing



Pirates hook win in late innings

The Brunswick High School Pirates come from behind in a wild finish Friday to remain perfect in the young baseball season. **Sports, 8A**

Inside The News

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 - Sudoku 7B
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Tour pro links kids to reading

Isles' Kuchar joins effort to promote skill

By **SARAH LUNDGREN**
The Brunswick News

St. Simons Island professional golfer Matt Kuchar, the 11th-ranked player in the world, traded his signature Bridgestone hat Friday for one a bit more colorful — a red and white Dr. Seuss "Cat in the Hat" cap.

Kuchar, taking a break from his sport, stopped by Altama Elementary School to read to children for the school's kick-off



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

St. Simons Island PGA Tour pro Matt Kuchar reads the book 'The Best Story' to Altama Elementary School first-graders in the school's gym Friday as part of an annual Read Across America event. Kuchar was one of 52 volunteers who read to children throughout the day.

of Read Across America Week, which starts Monday.

After sharing some stories of a recent tournament in Hawaii with a group of first-graders in the gym, and, of course,

checking out everyone's golf swing, Kuchar dove into "The Best Story," written by Eileen Spinelli.

Please see **READ, 5A**

INSIDE FLETC

THE HIGH-SECURITY LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SITE OPENS UP TO SHOW HOW IT HELPS PROTECT THE NATION

By **MICHAEL HALL**
The Brunswick News

The eyes of everyone in the tour group of about 20 visitors admiring the gun display in the lobby of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's firearms training building lit up when they were told what the next stop on the training facility's tour would include.

"Alright, now lets go back and let you shoot a little on our virtual shooting range," FLETC firearms branch chief Ringan Doty told the group made up primarily of members of the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce. A short stroll down the hallway led the visitors to a long room with projectors displaying a series of virtual targets on the wall. At the back of the room, a cart full of laser guns simulating Sig Sauer and Glock pistols immediately drew the attention of everyone in the room.

After a few tips from senior firearms instructor Ed Sizemore, smiles widened as the virtual shooting began in the range, a recent addition to FLETC that cost more than \$2 million, but will save about \$2,400 per student who receives instruction there, compared to a live-fire range with bullets, Doty said.

The range was part of a community tour week that opened rarely seen areas of the nearly 1,700-acre, high-security federal training center to more than 70 chamber and Island Newcomers Club members who were ushered around the facility that trains law enforcement personnel for 91 federal agencies in three buses.

Peggy Dixon, FLETC spokesperson, said the tours are something the center is hoping to host more often, after taking a break for several years from regular community visits.

"We're the largest employer in the county, and people are naturally curious," Dixon said.

This tour began with comments from FLETC Director Connie Patrick, who oversees all seven federal training center locations around the country from its base in Glynn County.

"We have worked hard to make not only the facilities as real as possible, but also the training," Patrick said at the beginning of the tour before leaving to catch a flight to Los Angeles.

Improvements like the virtual firing



▲ Counterterrorism Branch Chief Bob Hrdlicka, explains the use of an airplane fuselage in training.



◀ Stan Moran, program director of Danis City, a functional downtown area, talks about its use in training.

▼ Senior Firearms Instructor Ed Sizemore explains the laser gun used at a shooting range.

range, a fully functional town called Danis City and a simulated airport, bus depot and subway car are all examples of why Patrick is optimistic the 2015 fiscal year allocations for FLETC could increase slightly.

She cited events like the Boston Marathon bombing as reasons the Department Homeland Security, under which FLETC is operated, will continue to be an integral piece of the federal budget.

"What we are doing is critically important to homeland security," Patrick said.

A steadily growing budget would mean potentially adding to the 91 agencies,

Please see **FLETC, 5A**

Camden moving into era of sharing

Benefits of cooperation outweighing costs of previous turf wars

By **GORDON JACKSON**
The Brunswick News

KINGSLAND — Sometimes, good things come out of bad times. Take the Great Recession of late 2007 to mid-2009, for example.

The uncertainty it created had an unexpected effect in Camden County, where municipalities have had a long history of being territorial and sometimes adversarial toward each other. But when everyone is feeling the same strain on declining revenues, the price of working cooperatively suddenly looks like a bargain.

Kingsland Mayor Ken Smith, who has held elected office in the city since 1986, remembers the early days he was a city councilman. "When I first came into office, the elected officials (in different cities and the county) couldn't stand each other," he said. "I could never understand that hostility."

There were arguments about mutual aid for fire protection that prompted Kingsland to shut off water to fire hydrants hooked up to the city water system in a development in the county.

The mayors of Kingsland, Woodbine and St. Marys bought a billboard in the late 1990s urging residents to vote against a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum supported by the Camden County Commission because of a disagreement over how the money would be shared.

In 2000, St. Marys ended an agreement with the county for fire protection and created its own fire department. At the time, the city and county disagreed over the delivery of public services, such as road improvements and public

Please see **CAMDEN, 5A**



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Molli-Malone Wommack, a second-grader who saved a classmate from choking, works in the concession stand Friday at the Brunswick High School baseball game. Her brother is a catcher for the team.

Fame follows life saving

By **KELLY QUIMBY**
The Brunswick News

Molli-Malone Wommack is kind of a big deal right now.

Since saving one of her Golden Isles Elementary classmates from choking in the school lunchroom Wednesday, 7-year-old Molli, has become a local celebrity.

The second-grader's account of using the Heimlich maneuver on a gasping girl first appeared on the front page of The News and was republished in other newspapers and online. She was interviewed on regional television stations and, most important (to her), she was featured on her school's television program, the Bear News

Please see **FAME, 5A**



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News photos

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Read: Shows importance

Continued from 1A

The children exclaimed at moments, even giving a resounding, "ew" when he mentioned a kiss. It was clear they enjoyed the experience that took them beyond their traditional classroom reading.

Kuchar was one of the 52 mostly adults participating in the day's reading events. Others included parents, former teachers, athletes and community leaders, all of whom stopped by to make it the biggest kick-off day Altama Elementary School has ever had for Read Across America.

One teacher at the school said more than 70 people had called to take part.

Read Across America Week, usually held close to the birthday of the late and beloved children's writer Dr. Seuss, is all about encouraging literacy in young students.

At Altama Elementary, guests

donned Dr. Seuss hats. Some children even wore Seuss-esque clothing.

Children's book character Geronimo Stilton, a talking mouse, even made an appearance.

Pupils loved the event, given their reaction, but their teachers loved it even more because it reinforced the importance of what they teach in their classrooms.

"Having people from the community come to our classes and read shows students that reading is an important part of people's lives no matter what professional capacity they work in," said first-grade teacher Mary-Lauren Shalack.

Children across Glynn County, some as young as pre-kindergarten and day care ages, will get a chance to engage themselves in the world of reading next week.

For adults who might want to get involved, it is as simple as a telephone call to any elementary

school to see if there is an opportunity.

• **Reporter Sarah Lundgren** writes about education and other local topics. Contact her at slundgren@thebrunswicknews.com, on Facebook or at 265-8320, ext. 322.

The Harry Award Reese Presentation

Will be Monday 7, noon luncheon at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 900 Gloucester St., Brunswick.

All nominations for Christian laymen to be considered for the 2014 award should be completed and in the hands of Clint Purser by April 7.

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Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

PGA Tour pro Matt Kuchar demonstrates a golf swing for Altama Elementary School first-graders during a visit Friday to read to them.

FLETC: Hopes high to maintain budget

Continued from 1A

nearly 3,000 students and 3,000 employees already working and learning at the center, which Patrick said will mean more people living in the area and contributing to the local economies. There is even a possibility of the center hosting some private security training, as well.

Already, FLETC is responsible for an economic impact in a five-county area surrounding the center of more than \$313 million. Statewide, a 2011 study showed that impact increases to more than \$975 million.

Woody Wright, FLETC's chief of staff, said the Department of Homeland Security is not likely to undergo the same sort of cuts being proposed by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel for the military that could reduce personnel

to pre-World War II levels.

While those cuts could affect the training academies operated at FLETC by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Wright said leadership at FLETC has learned to wait on a budget from the House of Representatives rather than reacting to preliminary budget talks.

Regardless of what the final budget may bring for FLETC, the Glynco training center off Chapel Crossing Road has become one of the most modern facilities in the country, something that shows Gordon Davis his efforts more than 40 years ago to bring center to Glynn County were worth it.

"I almost don't even recognize it," said Davis, who was part of a congressional committee that studied the feasibility of using the former Naval air station site

where the center is now located.

The air station's first commander, Anthony "Lucky" Danis is now the namesake for a state of the art practical training ground called Danis City, 27 acres of fully functional downtown streetscapes, suburban neighborhoods, trailer parks and rural homes for federal agents to train in counterterrorism methods.

In the same vein, the training center's Intermodal Facility features an airport, bus depot and subway station that feel like the real thing.

Bob Hrdlicka, counterterrorism branch chief, said the facility offers real world experience that is vital to Homeland Security's mission, especially after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

• **Reporter Michael Hall** writes about public safety, environment and other local top-

ics. Contact him at mhall@thebrunswicknews.com, on Facebook or at 265-8320, ext. 320.

Camden: Recession unifies

Continued from 1A

safety.

Relations thawed a bit in the 2000s with a turnover of elected officials, but they remained reluctant to work together.

Kingsland officials reached out to St. Marys about a decade ago with a proposal to build a joint water treatment plant. St. Marys officials said they'd think about the offer and never contacted Kingsland officials with a response, Smith said.

"I was hoping it would have been a situation where we worked together," he said.

Gary Blount has seen the issue from different perspectives. He served on St. Marys City Council 2003 through 2007 and has been on the Camden County Commission since 2010.

"Everyone was an entity onto themselves," Blount said of when he was first elected to the St. Marys council. "Kingsland was in its own world. Woodbine was in its own world. St. Marys was in its own world. And the county was in its own world."

In 2007, when the housing bubble burst and rumblings of a national recession were beginning, Blount said elected officials thought the economic downturn would not last long.

"They realized it wasn't a blip on the screen," he said. "Everyone kept waiting and it never improved."

Once elected officials realized they faced the same challenges, cities and the county began working together.

"The economy forced it about," Blount said. "I'm certain it was a catalyst."

In recent months, the cities of St. Marys and Kingsland have signed mutual aid agreements for fire protection with the county and they are planning for shared office space for some services, such as development authorities. They have also joined forces to try to bring a spaceport to the county.

"It's probably at an unprecedented level of cooperation in Camden County," Blount said. "It's tremendously easier. We're not fighting egos."

Now, everyone is working to

erase the negative image that was the subject of a Georgia Power study released in May 2011.

The study looked at the county's strengths and weaknesses and concluded it lacked available sites for development, no local technical college, the lack of economic diversification, and the county and its communities had issues with parochialism and duplication of public services.

Smith says the improvement in relations is important to send a message to prospective employers and state officials that local governments in Camden County can cooperate and work toward common goals.

"We started seeing changes with the downturn of the economy," Smith said. "I'd like to look at it like people are more willing to cooperate. We're more concerned about constituents instead of personal agendas."

• **Reporter Gordon Jackson** writes about Camden County and other local topics. Contact him at gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com, on Facebook or at 464-7655.

Fame: Dream is to be nurse

Continued from 1A

Network.

"They're calling me a hero," she said Friday. "It feels really, really good. I hope I can do it again."

Molli's mother, Kelli Wommack, the registered nurse at Golden Isles Elementary School, says it's always been a dream of her daughter to be on the school's Bear News Network, but typically only fifth-graders get to appear.

But because of her quick thinking Wednesday, all kinds of dreams have been coming true for

Molli this week.

"They had us on the (TV) news (Thursday) night, and I was literally about to throw up," Kelli Wommack said about being nervous. "But she's not camera-shy at all."

When out in public, people who don't know the Wommacks applaud when they see the 7-year-old.

Kelli Wommack says in a way it's not surprising her daughter stayed calm and took care of her classmate. Her daughter has already had lots of practice in the nurse's office, handing out ban-

dages or taking temperatures.

Kelli Wommack says her daughter is a positive and caring child, attributes that show whenever she's with her classmates.

While the fame is good, Molli says, it's even better to test out another dream.

"I want to follow in my mommy's footsteps," she said. "She saves people sometimes."

• **Reporter Kelly Quimby** writes about government and other local topics. Contact her at kquimby@thebrunswicknews.com, or at 265-8320, ext. 321.

Winning lottery is double lucky day

Associated Press

HINGHAM, Mass. — A Massachusetts man stopped for speeding had a pretty good excuse when he was pulled over: He had just won a big lottery prize and was on his way to collect his cash.

It turns out Thursday was 22-year-old Scott Lowe's lucky day in more ways than one. The officer who pulled him over in Hingham issued a verbal warning

and urged him to drive safely.

Lowe, of Rockland, told the officer he was speeding because he had won \$50,000 on a scratch-off ticket and was on his way to Massachusetts State Lottery headquarters in Braintree to collect his winnings.

Police say Lowe was shaking, and showed the officer his winning ticket.

After the warning, he went on his way and claimed his prize.

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