

The Brunswick News

FAST REPORTS

Bomb threat disrupts school

Camden County High School was evacuated for almost 90 minutes Thursday after a bomb threat was called in to the school.

"We got a call (at about 7:50 a.m.) stating that a bomb would go off in 20 minutes," said Gary Blount, assistant superintendent. "We immediately followed our emergency protocol, notifying the 911 center and evacuating the building."

The Camden County police and fire departments and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Bomb Squad were called in to search for any bomb.

"We had county police sweep the stadium to ensure that it was safe, and were able to relocate all of the students to that area thereafter," said Blount.

"We had dogs from the naval base's bomb squad do a complete sweep of the building," said Blount. "They didn't find anything, and we were able to get all of the students back into their normal school day."

School board invited to forum

All elected Glynn County Board of Education members have been invited to attend a discussion about the education special purpose local option sales tax.

Glynn County voters will vote in a referendum on the ESPLOST on Tuesday.

The discussion will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the conference center ballroom of the Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort, 515 N. Windward, St. Simons Island.

CORRECTION to meeting

A news brief on Page 2A Tuesday incorrectly identified the organization that will meet Tuesday to discuss water issues, including the city's reservations about adopting the proposed operating agreement setting up the Joint Water and Sewer Commission. The organization that will meet to discuss that and other issues is the Water Resources Management and Advisory Committee.

Kelsey Hollington's name was spelled incorrectly in the Top Teen profile on Page 3A Wednesday.

NEXT IN THE NEWS

In Saturday's edition, **Local** considers a sales tax being brought before voters Tuesday, **Sports** catches up with a former Glynn Academy wrestler and **Life** finds out what life is like while being married to a church leader.

Tax vote causing concern

By LAUREN McCALLISTER
The Brunswick News

Brunswick real estate agent Jim Jones isn't against providing excellent academic opportunities for children.

He just doesn't believe new school buildings are the way to do it.

"Buildings don't educate children," said Jones, chair of the recently organized Truth in Education political action committee.

"If buildings create better school systems, Ware County has a brand new high school. Why are their test scores lower than ours?"

Truth in Education is a

group trying to spread its views against the proposed education special purpose local option sales tax, the fate of which will be decided by voters in a countywide referendum Tuesday.

If passed, the sales tax would raise Glynn County's rate to 7 cents on the dollar, from 6 cents.

Over its three-and-a-half year life, the tax would generate an estimated \$90 million, which would be used to fund new schools and new school facilities, as well as pay off school system debt.

The ESPLOST is still a bad idea to Jones.

"There are too many ques-

tions," he said.

"This is a panic vote. The school board is trying to panic the public into voting for it.

"I don't think there's any dishonesty involved. I think it's about mismanagement and I'm not willing to give this school board \$100 million more of my tax dollars."

Jones said the school board needs to prove it's capable of managing money.

"Personally, I think ESPLOST is a great way to raise money, but the school board has a long record of lack of trust and lack of accountability," he said.

Jones isn't alone in his opposition.

Kevin Gough, chair of the Glynn County Republican Party, and Burnette Fulton, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have been equally vocal in their concerns.

Gough has criticized the school board's decision to hold the sales tax referendum during a special election instead of in conjunction with a general election.

Fulton and his group are concerned that the new charter school, which will be partially built using ESPLOST funds, will be governed by a private citizen group.

Redesigning nature's blueprint

Land owners relocate live oak tree before commencing construction

By JOSH MESSER
The Brunswick News

Nature put it in one spot, man needed it in another.

Two large backhoes moved a live oak tree estimated to weigh 300,000 pounds from its original location to a spot 200 feet away on Thursday.

The tree, registered with the national Live Oak Society as "The Beachview," was moved from the back of a lot on Beachview Drive to the front so that an eight-unit, four-building condominium complex can be built.

John E. Lindgren and his wife Barbara Lindgren once lived in a house on the lot and still own the property. Their son, Jones Lindgren, is the architect building the new condos.

The Lindgrens feel that moving the tree, rather than cutting it down, is the environmentally responsible thing to do.

"Of course, you want to be able to save as many trees as possible on the island. These two trees are over 200 years old and are registered members of the Live Oak Society," said



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"The Beachview," a live oak tree registered with the Live Oak Society, was moved 200 feet away from its original location Thursday in hopes of preserving it before a construction project began.

John Lindgren, referring to "The Beachview" and another tree - named "Contentment" - that stands at the back corner of the lot.

Barbara Lindgren, whose grandfather bought the lot and the house that once stood on it in 1951, says moving the tree makes sense for many reasons.

"We want to preserve the tree, first of all," she said. "And it will be aesthetically pleasing with the new condos,

and it's environmentally friendly."

Clarke Downey, a Realtor with Golden Isles Realty who is working with the Lindgrens on the project, said preserving the tree was a central issue for Jones Lindgren in his designs.

"Jones had grown up on this property, and this tree is something he remembered fondly from his childhood," said Downey. "Saving it seemed to be one of the most important

things to him when he was doing the site work."

Andy Hollon is the East Region Project Manager for Houston, Texas-based Environmental Design, a company that specializes in relocating large trees.

Hollon agreed that it was important to save the tree.

"This is an old tree," he said. "It would be a shame just to cut it down. It's a beautiful tree."

Students ready to prove chess prowess

By LAUREN McCALLISTER
The Brunswick News

It's a game for scholars, quick thinkers, problem solvers and, yes, even 8 year olds.

Oglethorpe Point Elementary School's Radical Rooks chess team is proving that the game isn't just one for senior citizens passing away retirement.

"There is a lot of research that suggest (chess) teaches problem-solving skills and it teaches them to think before they act," said Leslie

Forcina, the faculty sponsor who will accompany 12 of the elementary school students to the state chess tournament in Atlanta this Saturday.

"It shows increased reading skills, too."

But just as important as reinforcing school work, third-grader Ann Marie Morrison, 8, says she plays chess because it's fun.

"I've been reviewing the combination book every night," said Ann Marie, in preparation for the state tournament.

Her brother, fifth-grader John Morrison, 10, will also attend Saturday's event.

This trip will mark John's fifth appearance at the state finals.

But just because John's been playing chess since the first grade doesn't mean he's not getting pre-competition jitters.

"(The state competition) is much more difficult than regional competitions because you're playing against some of the top players from schools all around the state," John said.

Forcina, a guidance counselor at the school, said teams from Oglethorpe Point have won awards at the state level in the past, but never the grand prize.

More important than winning awards, she said, is making sure the students have fun playing.

"We've never been first in the state so we really are excited," she said.

A student team from St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brunswick will also participate in the state competition Saturday.

STREET TALK



What people are saying about St. Patrick's Day plans

Interviews by KRISTA HARRIS
The Brunswick News

"We'll be here or we'll be going to Savannah to see all the people on the streets and the parade."



Jarek Tomam

- Jarek Tomam, St. Simons Island

"I've only been back three days from Iraq, and I have two weeks off before I go back so this St. Patrick's Day I can unwind a little."



Mike Sanderson

- Mike Sanderson, St. Simons Island

"(My boyfriend and I are) going to a surprise party in Metter on Saturday. It's nothing too big."



Whitney Turner

- Whitney Turner, St. Simons Island

"I'll probably be working, but if I wasn't I'd likely spend time with my fiancée (Amber Fraser)."



Aaron McLemore

And since we live over on Jekyll Island, we could go to the beach and spend time with our family."

- Aaron McLemore, Jekyll Island

"I'll be at home with my mom and stepdad watching the festivities (for St. Patrick's Day), since Aaron will be working."



Amber Fraser

- Amber Fraser, Jekyll Island

"I'll be avoiding the crowds. I'll be staying at home with a good book because of all the people that will be out."



Michael Brima

- Michael Brima, St. Simons Island

Annual Meeting of Our Members

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Place: Brunswick High School Cafeteria

Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Business Program 6:45 P.M.



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