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Firefighters help defend town

Glynn crews called to Hoboken in Brantley County

By MICHAEL HALL
The Brunswick News

Glynn County firefighters were called to Hoboken in Brantley County Thursday to help defend the small city against the Rain Pond fire.

The fire, which started in the Okefenokee Swamp May 25, is now threatening Hoboken, located on U.S. 82 between Nahunta and Waycross. Hoboken is about 45 miles west of Brunswick.

The Glynn County Fire Depart-

ment sent two engines and a deputy chief to assist efforts there.

Hoboken established emergency shelters at the First Baptist Church and at the Community Center in the event that evacuations become necessary.

"As I understand it, it was a separate fire that has now merged with the Race Pond fire," said Glynn County Deputy Chief Ray Marat.

Wildfires remained under control in Glynn and Camden counties Thursday.

"The rain (Thursday) helped, but we could have used some more," Marat said.

In northern Glynn County, the fire that started along Ga. 99 was still smoldering Thursday.

"We are periodically checking the fire to ensure it does not get going again," Marat said.

He said extremely dry conditions have made it difficult to fully put out the fire.

In Camden County, the fire was under control Thursday after consuming more than 1,000 acres, ac-

ording to Camden County Sheriff Deputy William Terrell. He said dry tinder could still be burning under the surface, despite the nearly 2 inches of rain that fell.

"These are the worst possible conditions for fires right now," Terrell said.

A heavy rain event would dampen fires burning in Southeast Georgia, but the massive amount of smoke being produced by the flames is making that less likely to happen, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Al Sandrik. He said large amounts of smoke in the air hinder rain cloud formation.

CRIME Scene

Jewelry stolen from residence

Among reports filed with Brunswick and Glynn County police:

Burglaries

• 2600 block of Newcastle Street, Brunswick: Complainant reported someone stole a heat pump, copper wiring, copper pipes, two stoves and a kitchen sink from her residence Tuesday. She said it appeared someone had been living in the residence. The stolen property was valued at \$1,300.

• 100 block of Marsh Trace Drive, Glynn County: Complainant reported someone entered his residence and stole jewelry Monday. Entry was gained by prying open a door that lead from the garage into the residence. The complainant said eight rings and three necklaces were stolen. He said the unknown offender only stole the yellow gold jewelry, leaving the white gold untouched. The stolen jewelry was valued at \$16,300.

• 5800 block of Altama Avenue, Glynn County: Complainant reported someone stole a laptop computer and a video game system from his residence Monday. They were valued at \$1,500.

Thefts

• King's Colonial Ford at 3565 Community Road, Brunswick: Complainant reported three tire rims and two tires were stolen from a vehicle at the business Wednesday. The stolen property was valued at \$890.

• 2200 block of Norwich Street, Brunswick: Complainant reported a battery was stolen from his vehicle Tuesday. He said he had surveillance footage of the offender. An officer was able to identify the subject. The stolen battery was valued at \$50.

• 2400 block of Blain Street, Glynn County: Complainant reported someone stole a bicycle Sunday. She said the bike had been located in an open shed and was unsecured. It was valued at \$100.

• Sonny's at 5328 New Jesup Highway, Glynn County: Complainant reported someone entered her vehicle and stole a purse Sunday. Entry to the vehicle was gained by breaking a window. The purse contained a wallet, a debit card, a check book and \$2 in cash. The stolen items were valued at a total of \$40.

Problem with persons

• 900 block of Carpenter Street, Brunswick: Complainant reported an unknown female came to his residence soliciting Wednesday. He said she had no permit and spoke in an accent he could not understand. The alleged offender could not be located.

- Nick Nichols
The Brunswick News

Students get hands-on learning

Grant provides opportunities during summer

By ERIKA CAPEK
The Brunswick News

A fountain of foam erupted from a Sprite soda bottle Thursday as a group of excited students at Altama Elementary scattered in different directions.

"I think out of Diet Coke and Sprite, that Sprite will (erupt) the highest," said E'Armand Henley, 12, before the experiment.

The students dropped two Mentos mints into the bottles and watched to see whose hypothesis was correct. As it turned out, the Diet Coke erupted the highest.

E'Armand is one of about 150 Altama Elementary, Goodyear Elementary and Burroughs-Molette Elementary students who go to either Burroughs-Molette or Altama Elementary Mondays through Thursdays. Goodyear Elementary students are bused to the Altama site.

Students, split into groups of about 12, spend time furthering their knowledge in subjects like math, English, science and social studies in the mornings. Then in the afternoon, they are bused to either the Boys and Girls Club or the YWCA.

On Fridays, they spend the entire day at one of the two sites.

The free program is funded by a 21st Century grant through the Department of Education.

Students enjoy the programs it funds.

"I like learning over the summer," said Jaquayla Pickens, 9.

She was working on a project Thursday about famous people from Georgia like musician Ray Charles and singer-songwriter and actress Gladys Knight.

"(The program) helps me learn more about fourth grade," said Jaquayla, who will be entering the fourth grade this fall.

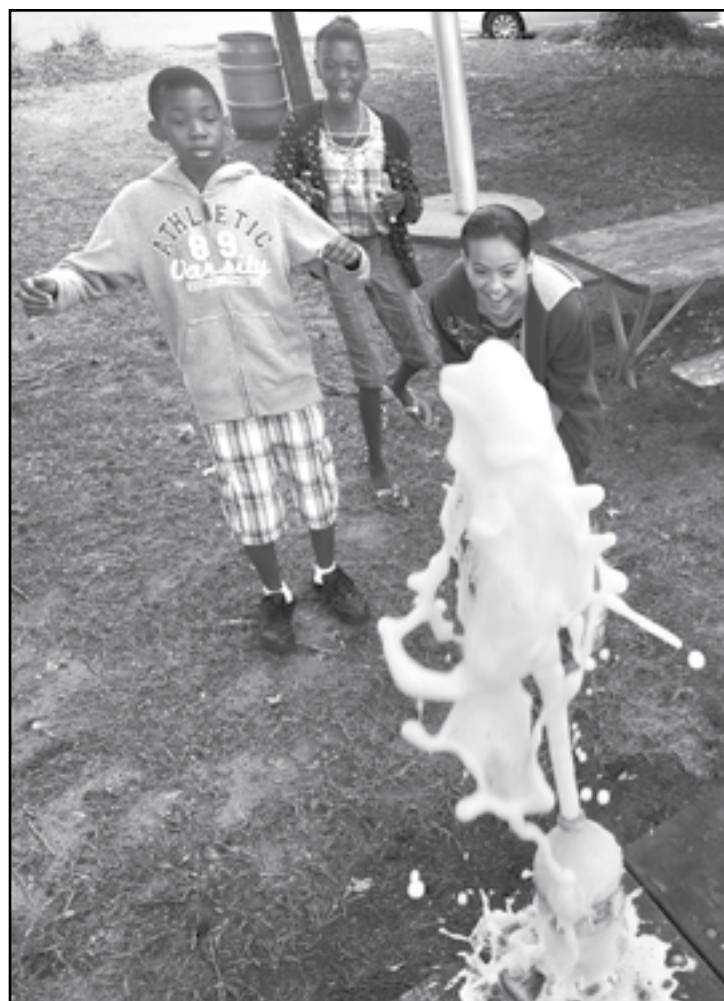
Other student groups spent time making pasta like spaghetti and linguine from scratch or conducting science experiments with food coloring.

"Twenty-first Century makes learning fun without using paper and pencil," said Susan Lee, project manager for the Glynn County school system. "These are hands-on types of activities. We're trying to reach kids who need a safe place. This is a safe environment."

The grant pays for the certified teaching staff, as well as the memberships and weekly fees for the students to attend the Boys and Girls Club and the YWCA.

The program also is available to students during the school year.

This is the third year Glynn County has received the 21st Century grant.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Donovan Jones, 10, from left, Zeleisha Carter, 11, and Hannah Panuelo, 11, watch Thursday as a bottle of Sprite erupts after having two Mentos mints placed in it during a science project at Altama Elementary School. The students are taking part in an educational program that runs through June 30.

Center memorializes beloved sea turtle

By ANNA FERGUSON HALL
The Brunswick News

Turtle ceremony

Today's reef ball ceremony will be at 1 p.m. at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Before the ceremony, several turtles will be released into the ocean at noon at Great Dunes Park on the Jekyll Island beach.

Griffin is gone, but he is far from forgotten.

As a central character in the four-year history of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, the loggerhead sea turtle was a beloved symbol of the center's mission of sea turtle conservation.

Often seen bobbing his head in and out of his swimming pool, looking actively at passersby and interacting with staff, Griffin was a prized piece in the center's collection, said Betsy Coy, general manager of the center.

"Oh, Griffin, he was a special one," she said. "He had a personality on him. Regular visitors just loved him, and Griffin had many adoptive parents here, too, who were attached to him, as well."

Griffin was more than a central figure for visitors, though. He was a prime educational tool, showcasing to guests the importance of sea turtle conservation and environmental education, said Dr. Terry Norton, director and founder of the center.

"Griffin was valuable to help

educate the public of issues affecting sea turtles and the difficulty in rehabilitation in some cases, and he was also helpful with researching various rehabilitation techniques even if not successful," Norton said.

Sent to the sea turtle center in 2007, the adult male loggerhead suffered from a condition similar to a stroke, making him unable to dive or plunge underwater to eat or swim. Staff at the center worked regularly to create a normal life for Griffin and aid him in recovery. But in the end, his condition proved too severe. Not even the staff's great efforts were enough to bring him fully back to health, said Erica England, communications specialist for the Jekyll Island Authority.

"It was a hard decision on us all," said Coy. "We tried very hard to treat him like a wild creature and not get too attached. But when you are with an animal day in and day out, it gets hard to keep a great distance. We all felt saddened by the loss."

After Griffin's recent passing, staff and volunteers wanted to make sure that the active loggerhead was memorialized and remembered for his spunk and energy.

Today, the center has planned to commemorate his passing by adding his ashes, in the form of a large pearl, into a reef ball. Weighing about 30 pounds, reef balls are large structures added to coastal shorelines to encourage more underwater growth and natural habitats.

Griffin's reef ball will be sent to Miami, where it will be incorporated into a coral reef, ensuring that Griffin is placed back into the natural world from which he stemmed, Coy said.

"Because Griffin had been with the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for so long and has taught us so much, we felt memorializing him

in an Eternal Reef was the very best way to honor his passing," Norton said.

A plaque will be attached to the reef ball, so swimmers and divers in the reef can see who he was and where he lies, Coy said.

"With this reef ball, we are sending Griffin back into the ocean, back to his home, where he can continue the natural life cycle," Coy said.

During today's ceremony, staff and volunteers will carve symbols and signatures into Griffin's cement pearl, adding an extra personal touch to the memorial, Coy said.

More than an opportunity to commemorate Griffin's life, the reef ball ceremony is also a way to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the sea turtle center. An hour prior to the reef ball ceremony, several sea turtles will be released into the ocean, also a way to recognize Griffin and the mission of the center, England said.

"The sea turtle center means a lot to residents and visitors in the area," England said. "The turtles that live there and are in recovery are special creatures to us all."

FAST NEWS

Health board elects new officers

The board of the Glynn County Health Department has elected two new officers.

Deborah Riner, a member of the board five years, is the new chair of the board, and James Fedd, who has served on the board 10 years, is the new secretary.

"Both Deborah and James have been outstanding representatives for the citizens of Glynn County and I am confident that in their new positions... they will continue to do what's best for the Golden Isles community," said Dr. W. Douglas Skelton, director of the Coastal Health District.

Other members of the board are Glynn County Commissioner Jerome Clark; Joan Boorman, director of testing/international baccalaureate and grants for the school system; Brunswick Mayor Bryan Thompson; Dr. Frances L. Owen, a Brunswick physician; and College of Coastal Georgia President Valerie Hepburn.

Jekyll Island Authority to meet

The board of the Jekyll Island Authority will convene Monday, beginning with committee meetings at 9:30 a.m., at the Morgan Center on Jekyll Island. The board will meet after the committee sessions following a 10-minute break. Agenda items include the authority's fiscal year 2012 budget, which begins July 1.

Tea Party will meet Tuesday

The Golden Isles Tea Party will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Bennie's Red Barn on Frederica Road, St. Simons Island.

State transportation board keeps chair

Rudy Bowen of Gwinnett County and Johnny Floyd of Cordele were unanimously re-elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the state transportation board.

Jay Shaw of Lakeland represents the first congressional district on the board. The district includes Glynn and surrounding counties.

CORRECTION

to name
The last name of Daniel Paulk was misspelled in a story on 2A Thursday about a teen program.

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