

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

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BRUNSWICK • ST. SIMONS ISLAND • JEKYLL ISLAND • SEA ISLAND

GAS PRICE SPIKES

Coastal Georgia is seeing some of the highest gas prices in the state this year,
LOCAL, 2A

REMAINS FOUND

Skeletal remains were found off Scranton Connector on Sunday,
LOCAL, 2A

JOYS OF SPRING

Springtime on the coast is an ideal time for sports at all levels,
SPORTS, 1B

Man in distress saved from East River

By LARRY HOBBS
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A Brunswick firefighter jumped into a river Friday night and saved the life of a man who had fallen off a boat.

The 59-year-old boat resident at Brunswick Landing Marina, who authorities say was intoxicated, fell out of a dingy and into the East River.

Richard Bue, longtime and much heralded firefighter with the Bruns-

wick Fire Department, saw the man in distress when the fire crew arrived on the scene. The man was losing strength as he clung to the edge of the dingy while floating out on the water toward the far side of the river.

It was a situation that needed immediate action, Bue thought.

"He sized it up quick, took his shoes off and jumped right in," said Brunswick Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Allen. "He realized by the time he jumped in, the river's freezing cold."

Bue kept swimming anyway,

making a diagonal beeline across the river to reach the man who was clinging to his boat.

Friends and family took the 40-foot boat from which the dingy was launched to try and assist, but their efforts failed. No one could reach the man in distress.

The man was in no condition to swim ashore due to a combination of age, impairment and cold water, Allen said.

Bue made a freestyle sprint for the man, swimming against some

of the strongest incoming currents on eastern U.S. seaboard. In no time, Bue had found his way inside the dingy. He then helped the man inside.

Moments later, Bue was able to help the man get from the dingy into his 40-foot yacht, which brought him back to the dock at the marina.

Allen said the man might not have held out much longer in the frigid water.

For his part, Bue did not give it a second thought before jumping into

the river and battling swift currents and cold water to render aid to the stranger in distress, Allen said.

"Man, it was outstanding," Allen said. "It's what we live for in firefighting, where you're legitimately saving a life. It doesn't happen often but when it does, it's something special. Hypothermia would have set in and it wouldn't have taken very much longer."

Bue managed to tie the dingy

Please see RESCUE, 3A

CREATIVE THINKING



Provided photo

Local artist Kevin Bongang was chosen to be Frederica Academy's first Ellen Fleming Visiting Artist. He worked last week with the school's students.

Frederica Academy maintains focus on fine arts education

By LAUREN McDONALD
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This school year has emphasized the value of creative thinking.

Educators, students and all other school personnel have adapted amid the pandemic, and many in Glynn County have been able to do so in mostly face-to-face settings since August.

Academic and extracurricular programs that focus on creativity, like drama classes, music education and other fine arts, have been severely affected by COVID-19 concerns.

Yet that need for creative outlets didn't disappear when the pandemic began, said Tess Nielsen, fine arts director at Frederica Academy.

Despite the challenges of offering in-person education during a pandemic, Frederica Academy has maintained a clear focus on the importance of fine arts education, Nielsen said.

"We're very small, we're very nimble, and that is one of the things, especially in the arts, that's really kept us going and thriving through all of this," Nielsen said.

March will be a month highlighting musical theater at Frederica. The fifth grade will put on "Seussical" on March 11, and the middle and upper school students will present a production of "Little Women" March 25-27. The productions will include live-stream performances.

The music and arts programs in the lower school have long been of high priority at Frederica, Nielsen said, and the fifth-grade musical

is an institution at the school.

"That's the foundation of it all because we would not be able to do what we do in the middle and the upper school unless we had kids coming from that lower school with the foundational program that we've prepared," she said.

Significant planning has gone into what kind of COVID-19 precautions to put in place for the musicals, including social distancing for actors, face shields and audience limitations paired with live-streaming.

"We're prepared to have small and appreciative audiences on campus," Nielsen said.

The school has grown many of its arts pro-

Please see ARTS, 3A

Glynn County Democrats host SPLOST 2021 forum

By TAYLOR COOPER
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Glynn County Commissioner Allen Booker, whose district is mostly comprised of the city of Brunswick, said at a Monday forum that it would be "dangerous" and morally questionable to vote against Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

2021.

"This is a very important issue to the county but in particular to my district, which encompasses most of the city of Brunswick and the Black community," Booker said to a panel of five at a virtual public SPLOST 2021 forum hosted by the Glynn County Democratic Party. Party Chairwoman Julie Jordan moder-

ed the event.

His district is usually one of the last to get the funding it needs, he said, pointing to the recently completed L Street drainage and reconstruction project.

"That hasn't happened since I was a kid living in the neighborhood over 50 years ago," Booker said. "The SPLOST dollars are import-

ant, that's why I support it."

Booker called it a "luxury" to live in a district that doesn't need SPLOST funds. The city government has a tax base suppressed by a lot of tax-exempt properties, including the College of Coastal Georgia, churches and Glynn County government buildings and courts.

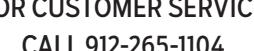
"The city needs the money, there-

fore the Black community needs it," Booker said. "It's a third of the city budget. If it doesn't pass, that means the city doesn't get a third of its budget for critical infrastructure projects."

Booker said no SPLOST list is going to make everyone happy, but

Please see FORUM, 3A

DAYBREAK



6 56525 10471 8

WEATHER

High 60, Low 52.

Showers. 6A

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COVID-19 stats as of 3 p.m. Monday from the DPH

GEORGIA

CASES 819K

DEATHS 15,148

GLYNN COUNTY

CASES 6,352

DEATHS 144

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