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Tuesday, December 7, 2021

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Volume 120, Number 69

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

## OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

U.S. plans to diplomatically boycott Beijing Winter Olympics, NATION, 6A

## BACK TO NORMAL

College of Coastal Georgia will host a traditional graduation on Saturday, LOCAL, 2A

## BHS SIGNING

Brunswick baseball player signs to play for Augusta University, SPORTS, 1B

# Salvation Army red kettle swiped with donations inside

By TERRY DICKSON

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For the first time in her 28-year Salvation Army career, Maj. Pam Starr had a red kettle stolen from in front of a store during collections.

While one person distracted the bell ringer at the Walmart Superstore between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. Saturday, another grabbed the kettle from its stand and they both ran,

she said.

If the donations were normal for the door on the department store side of the big store, the kettle likely held about \$500, the largest for the day, Starr said.

Police were called, but both of the males were wearing COVID-style masks, she said.

The worker wanted to chase after the thieves, but Starr said she always tells the workers not to.

Until Saturday that advice had been unnecessary.

The two bandits ran west across the parking lot and disappeared into the wood line, according to a Glynn County police report. Police obtained Walmart security camera footage of the incident. The investigation continues.

Starr said the only other theft of a red kettle in her career was when an employee walked away with a kettle

and its contents.

Of most concern to the Salvation Army are the possibility that those who took the kettle could use information from a donated check, she said.

"There was somebody's check in there. The check was donated around 11 a.m.," she said.

That was when Walmart reopened after a power failure, she said.

"We don't know whose check that

is," and others may have been donated without the bell ringer noticing, she said.

The Salvation Army's motto is "Doing the most good," and the donations would have provided a lot of help for the needy.

The \$500 would be equivalent to a month's rent, two months of electricity, 250 bags of food or 25 weeks of lodging in the Salvation Army shelter, she said.

## Vets reflect on Pearl Harbor attack

By GORDON JACKSON

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The attack on Pearl Harbor 80 years ago today stunned the nation, even though the warning signs were there.

Bennie Williams, commander of American Legion Post No. 9, said history since the sneak attack that claimed the lives of more than 2,300 has shown the nation has learned little.

"In 1941 we were not prepared," he said. "We knew about Japan. We didn't learn anything."

The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks show the nation's leaders aren't paying attention to history.

Please see PEARL, 6A

## Glynn Haven Park plans announced

By GORDON JACKSON

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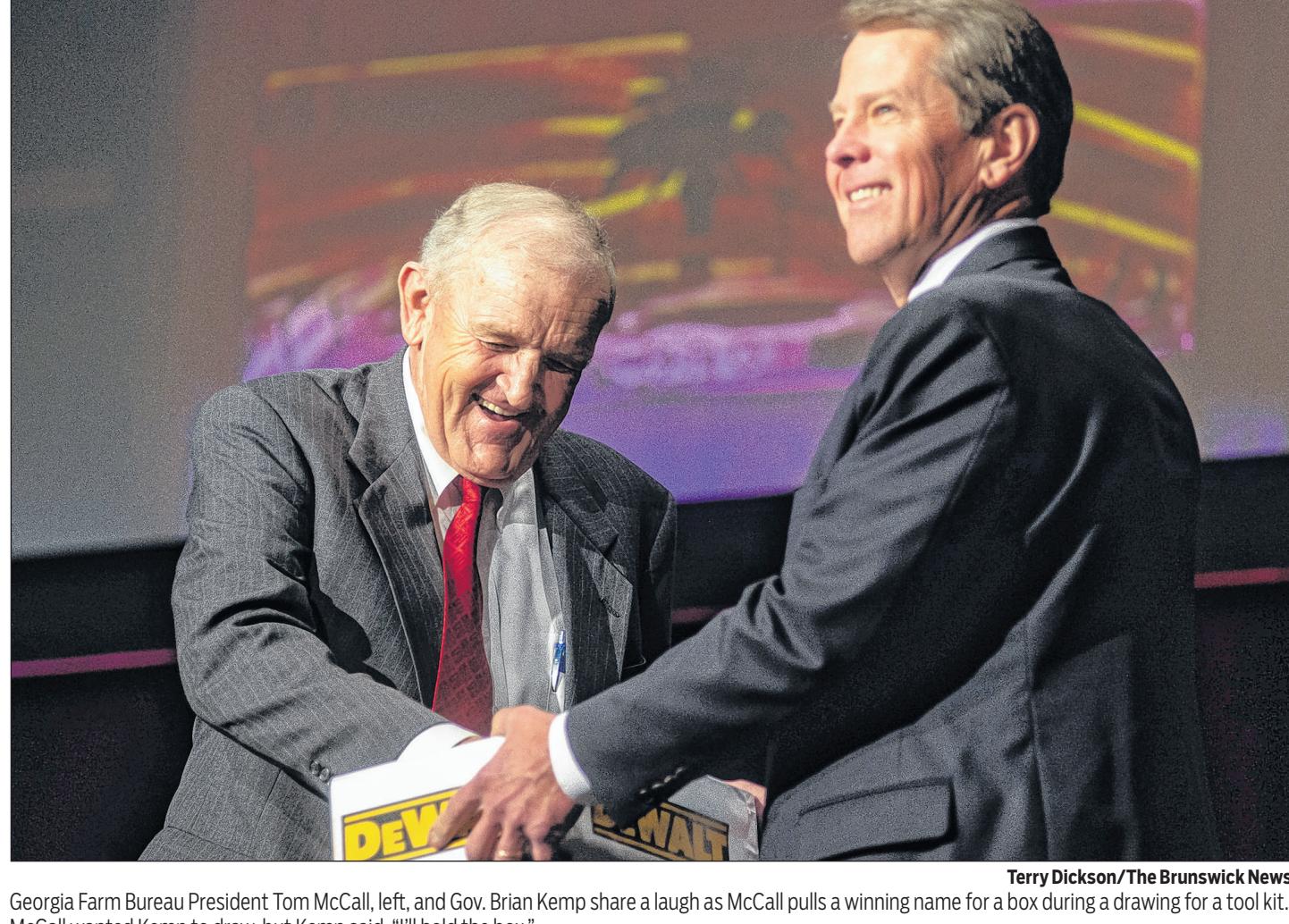
The Glynn Haven Park Committee has announced plans to build the first public park in the middle of St. Simons Island.

The park, located at the corner of Atlantic Drive and Third Avenue, is the culmination of months of work that included public meetings, planning, fundraising and cooperation among stakeholders. A site plan for the new park was released Monday.

"The site plan represents the ideas and suggestions of the donors, residents and friends of Glynn Haven Park," said Patti Downs, a park committee member. "The park includes a

Please see PARK, 6A

# NEW CHALLENGER



Terry Dickson/The Brunswick News

Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall, left, and Gov. Brian Kemp share a laugh as McCall pulls a winning name for a box during a drawing for a tool kit. McCall wanted Kemp to draw, but Kemp said, "I'll hold the box."

## Kemp shrugs off Perdue's challenge in Farm Bureau speech

By TERRY DICKSON

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Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has shrugged off former U.S. Sen. David Perdue's announced candidacy to oppose his re-election bid in the 2022 Republican primary.

"We've had several primary opponents," Kemp said Monday as he greeted and posed for pictures with delegates at the Georgia Farm Bureau's 84th annual convention on Jekyll Island.

Kemp spoke at the convention as did state

Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, who along with fellow Republican Herschel Walker is running to unseat U.S. Sen. Charles Warnock, a Democrat. U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter, R-1, also attended.

In introducing Kemp, Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall praised the governor for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic which caused the cancellation of the organization's 2020 meeting.

He said Kemp is the reason Georgia has been the best state to do business in for eight years running.

"I'll tell you it's because this guy didn't

buckle down to all the fear and all the junk that's on Facebook," said McCall, who farms in the Fortsonia Community in Elbert County. "He knows where his food, clothing and shelter come from."

Kemp returned the praise to his audience, noting that with \$70.1 million in annual production, agriculture remains "the No. 1 business in Georgia."

After two years of economic uncertainty and hardship, Georgia is leading the national economic recovery, Kemp said, and the

Please see FARM, 3A



Lauren McDonald/The Brunswick News

Steve Jobe installed a Harkness table in his classroom this school year to promote better classroom discussions.

## Harkness table drives classroom conversations

By LAUREN MCDONALD

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Greta Johnston remembers the first day she stepped into Steve Jobe's classroom at Frederica Academy.

Political posters and memorabilia filled nearly every visible space, on walls, shelves, desks and along the floor. An array of bobble heads of various political figures sat at nearly eye level with the students in their desks.

Every portion of the classroom seemed to offer something new to observe.

Johnston doubted she'd ever manage to focus on actual school work in that classroom.

"I remember when I walked in here sophomore year I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm going to be so distracted in this room,'" said Johnston, who is now a senior. "But really, it's kind of the opposite. You're almost more engaged when you're in an environment like this that is intended to support the students, and it's a more fun environment versus just blank concrete walls."

Engagement in Jobe's classroom has

increased even more this school year with the addition of what's called a "Harkness table." The table, which seats around 16, is designed to promote discussion and make all voices in the class equal.

The Harkness table is a teaching and learning method that involves students sitting in an oval configuration that promotes open-minded conversations with minimal teacher intervention.

Jobe first installed a Harkness table

Please see TABLE, 3A

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## WEATHER

High 70, Low 57. Mostly cloudy. 6A

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

GEORGIA

CASES

1.29M

DEATHS

25K

GLYNN COUNTY

CASES

15,488

DEATHS

305

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## Page One, Part 2

# Former Sen. David Perdue to challenge Kemp in primary

By DAVE WILLIAMS  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Former U.S. Sen. David Perdue Monday announced he will challenge Gov. Brian Kemp in next May's Republican primary.

Perdue is an ally of former President Donald Trump, who has been urging him for months to take on Kemp.

The governor angered Trump when he refused to help him overturn the results of last year's presidential election in Georgia.

Democrat Joe Biden carried the Peach State by fewer than 12,000 votes, the first Democratic presidential can-

didate to carry the state since Bill Clinton in 1992.

The primary contest between Kemp and Perdue is sure to aggravate divisions already apparent inside Georgia's Republican Party between Trump loyalists and those who want the GOP to put last year's election behind and move forward.

Perdue's announcement came less than a week after Democrat Stacey Abrams, who lost to Kemp in 2018 by a narrow margin, formally entered the gubernatorial race again.

In a video released Monday, Perdue laid the blame for Republican divisiveness squarely on Kemp.

"Think about how different it would be today if Kemp had fought Abrams first instead of fighting Trump," Perdue said. "Kemp caved before the election, and the country is paying the price today."

Perdue finished first in last year's general election but fell short of the 50%-plus-one margin needed to win reelection to a second term. He then lost a runoff to Democrat Jon Ossoff last January, which led to the Democrats capturing a 50-50 split in the Senate, effectively a majority since Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris can break tie votes.

Perdue said he likes Kemp but has become convinced

the governor cannot defeat Abrams.

"I'm running for governor to make sure Stacey Abrams is never governor of Georgia," Perdue said. "Make no mistake, Abrams will smile, lie and cheat to transform Georgia into her radical vision of a state that would look more like California and New York."

Democrats responded to Perdue's candidacy by labeling him a "failed" senator.

"Republicans like Brian Kemp and David Perdue have failed Georgians at every level of leadership," said Scott Hogan, executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia.

who will deliver on the issues Georgians care about, like recovering from COVID-19 and expanding access to health care."

## Farm

Continued from page 1A

state's 3.1% unemployment rate is the lowest in history.

He spoke of a victory in the so-called water wars with Florida over flow of the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers. The U.S. Supreme Court's dismissal of Florida's suit will ensure Georgia farmers will continue to have water for their crops.

"Before the Braves won the World Series" and before the Georgia Bulldogs went undefeated, "until Saturday, we won a 9-0 decision in the water wars," Kemp said.

He pledged that his government wouldn't stifle innovation or hinder farm families and said the state would continue to fight any return to former President Obama's "Waters of the U.S." regulations that would have severely inhibited farmers in the use of their land.

He also said Georgia would continue to fund economic development and broadband access in rural areas, which

attracts new investment and creates jobs.

Kemp criticized the U.S. Justice Department's "outrageous" suit over changes the Georgia General Assembly made to voting procedures.

He called the enabling Senate Bill 202 "a good bill... It makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat," and said he would continue to protect elections in Georgia.

Election integrity was a theme of Perdue's speech a month ago to the Golden Isles Republican Women on St. Simons. Although he spoke on the importance of election integrity, Perdue said Georgia Republicans can't wait for a perfect election but must instead concentrate on unity and avoid messy primary battles. As Republicans fight, Democrats will spend millions on advertising to get out their message, he said.

Some Georgia commodities have fared well during the pandemic in spite of labor shortages and, coincidentally, a very wet growing season. Tom Koehler, executive director of the Georgia Peanut Commission,

said the average harvest this year was 4,300 pounds per acre, not far below the 4,500 pounds that would constitute a bumper crop.

Although it was a wet year, the rains stopped and the fields dried in the fall giving farmers perfect harvest weather, he said.

The only real problems are political with export issues in Europe, he said.

Peanut growers are at equilibrium, meaning they have markets for all their produce, but there are other concerns over input costs from inflation because of the supply chain.

Farmers can't get parts for machinery, can't find pickup trucks and fuel costs are a growing concern, he said.

Fuel costs are hurting a lot of farmers, especially in tobacco, which was once among the state's most dependably lucrative crops, said J. Michael Moore, a tobacco expert with the University of Georgia Agriculture Extension Service.

Farmers aren't willing to risk their livelihoods by planting tobacco with diesel

fuel prices for their machinery and liquid propane for their curing barns increasing drastically.

"Some are quoting \$2.90 a gallon," he said of LP prices. "Two years ago, it was 90 cents."

Farmers who could once deliver their cured tobacco to a warehouse in their home county or at least nearby now have the expense of hauling the leaf an average of 500 miles to Yanceyville, N.C., Moore said.

Also, many generic agriculture chemicals are produced in China and those are going to run out, he said.

All that is happening after a wet year that hurt the value of the 2021 crop, he said.

When he began working tobacco 32 years ago, there were 500 growers who planted 48,000 acres. Now there are 90 growers working 7,500 acres.

Moore said the price of liquid propane goes beyond tobacco and will affect food prices.

"Farmers need it to keep their chickens warm," he said.

"It's really hard to hide in the back and fall asleep," Jobe said.

Jobe emphasizes three important actions in his class — read, listen and engage. Those words adorn the Harkness table at Frederica and remind students of the three steps they should take to be successful.

Jobe, who teaches AP American Government, AP U.S. History and AP Comparative Government, said his class has always been mostly discussion based. The table leveled up the nature of the conversations between the students and their teachers, though, and made class discourse the main activity of every class session.

"I think it's better for any type of social science class," Jobe said. "Let's say you're in an English class and you're discussing a book. With this,

you have more intimacy, and it's harder to hide behind another student or in the back. I think it promotes discussion. It invites discussion."

Students switch up their seats frequently, as does Jobe.

The table fits 16 comfortably and could probably squeeze in 18 chairs.

"I think it's perfect," said Tyrese Horne. "Desks are kind of boring when you talk about history."

Jobe said he's consistently trying to improve his classroom experience to meet the needs and expectations of students.

"It's their class," he said. "Obviously you've got to do the content, but you try to get feedback on the best ways that they can learn the information because it's all about learning. It's not memorizing."

Jobe's goal is to prepare the

students for a collegiate environment.

"A lot of your classes will be kind of in this manner, particularly at the smaller schools, and I'm just trying to prepare them so they're going to be ready," he said.

The students in Jobe's class said they feel the table achieves its intended purpose.

"It keeps you more accountable too because instead of like a regular classroom where you have desks in the back ... I can see everyone at this table plain as day," said Chandler Sitz, a senior. "There's no interruption in the view."

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