

Early County News

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"Pull for Blakely - or - Pull Out"

Nov. 11, 2009

Wednesday

20 Pages

Shop Local

**Job Seekers
Workshop
Friday**

Job Seekers 101, a specially designed workshop for displaced area workers and workers who feel that they lack opportunities to achieve their goals, will be offered by Bainbridge College 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 13 at the main campus continuing education center.

See page 9A for additional information.

**International
Education
Week at BC**

Bainbridge College will celebrate International Education Week Nov. 16-20 with special displays and events open to the public.

See page 9A.

**Tour of
Homes**

There will be a "Cottages and Castles Tour of Homes" Saturday, Dec. 5 to raise funds for the Blakely Mural Program. Tickets are \$15 each. See page 3A for additional information.

**Support
education
with color**

The Early County Association of Educators is asking citizens to wear a special color each day during American Education week, Nov. 15 - Nov. 21.

Monday — blue, "Reach for the sky with education"; Tuesday — green, "Go, Education, Go!"; Wednesday — purple or black, "Don't let education die"; Thursday — red, "Education is red hot!"; Friday — yellow, "Light up your life with education." See article on page 8A.

INSIDE:



OBITUARIES

See Page 2B
I.H. Cleveland Jr.
Annetta T. Hollington
Earnest Turner
Daniel Ward Jr.

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS



High speed chase ends in deadly shooting

A high speed chase across Calhoun County early Friday morning came to a deadly end in Arlington.

The driver, Chad Pierce, 34, of Leesburg, wrecked his Chevrolet Avalanche at the intersection of Pioneer and Wood Valley Roads. As officers tried to get Pierce to exit the vehicle he reportedly reached into the truck's console and glove box, causing an Edison police officer to open fire.

Multiple shots were fired by officer James "J. D." Kopkie, a former long-time Blakely police officer. Pierce was reportedly struck by at least three shots and killed.

Investigators reported no weapon was found in Pierce's truck.

The incident began just after 6 a.m. when a Calhoun County deputy tried to pull Pierce over between Edison and Morgan after clocking his Avalanche at 90 miles per hour. Instead of stopping, Pierce reportedly sped away leading officers on a high speed chase.

Driver reached into the truck's console and glove box, causing officer to open fire.

At speeds approaching 100 miles per hour at times he led officers through Morgan with his lights out, then along Highway 45 into Arlington where he wrecked.

Arlington mayor Jerome Brackins told reporters he heard the vehicles when the chase went past his house which is near the intersection where Pierce wrecked.

He stated he heard officers yelling at the

See SHOOTING on page 3A

Arlington race ends in a tie

The Arlington mayor's race ended in a tie last week with incumbent mayor Jerome Brackins Sr. and challenger Marvin King both receiving 256 votes.

Three provisional votes which could have determined the outcome were thrown out by election officials. It was determined that two of those voters were not Arlington residents and thrown out the day of the election. The third ballot was thrown out when the voter failed to provide a photo ID by 4 p.m. the day following the election.

There will be a runoff election Dec. 1 between Brackins and King. If there is another tie, there will be another election in March.

In the race for city council post 4, incumbent Sonia Buie received 296 votes to defeat challengers Brenda Hughes who received 131 votes and Veara Hudson who received 90.

Arlington council post 6 See ELECTION on page 3A

City sets budget hearing

2010 operating budget shrinks by \$1 million

The Blakely City Council met Nov. 3 at the City Annex to address a short agenda.

Among the business before the council was the first reading of a resolution for de-annexation of a portion of the Knight property which stretches from Highway 62 east of the city to Highway 27 north of town. The property was included erroneously in an annexation of the airport and industrial park properties.

The council set Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. as the time for a public hearing for the city's 2010 budget. The proposed budget is \$17 million compared to last year's \$15.4 million budget. The proposed budget includes \$2.6 million in CDBG grants and GEFA loans for city projects.

The city's actual operating budget is decreasing by approximately \$1 million from \$15.4 million to \$14.4 million and includes a three

percent cost of living raise for the city's 64 employees.

In other business the council adopted an updated erosion and sedimentation ordinance and heard from Jennifer Edwards of the Census Bureau who gave a short presentation on next year's federal census.

The council heard an update on sewer and water projects in the city which includes the final part of the South Blvd. CDBG project scheduled to begin. This project will help eliminate storm water back up on Jesse Johnson Street. Both the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and city hall renovation are ahead of schedule.

The council discussed investigating recycling for citizens who wished to voluntarily participate and councilmen Smith and Hutchins are to research what might be available.

Ida soaks harvest

Tropical storm Ida blew through the Southeast early this week dumping torrential rains across much of the area, bringing the cotton and peanut harvest to a standstill.

Early County farmers had their harvest equipment in high gear as the storm approached, getting as much of their crops out of the fields before the rains arrived late Monday.

While Ida was still making her way toward Southwest

Georgia Tuesday afternoon most of the rain had already moved to the north and east. But, up to four inches of rain in some areas left the fields soaked and farmers idle, facing a wait of several days before they will be able to get back into the fields.

"I'm hoping we somewhat dodged a bullet," Early County Extension director Brian Cresswell stated Tuesday, noting that six to eight inches of

See RAINS on page 3A

H1N1 vaccine not available for those 65 and older, yet

Older adults, who are among those hardest hit by seasonal flu, are least likely to catch the pandemic H1N1 virus, said Southwest Health District director Dr. Jacqueline Grant.

That's why people 65 and older are not in the top priority groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to receive the

scarce H1N1 vaccine.

"Laboratory tests indicate older people likely have some pre-existing immunity to the H1N1 flu virus," Grant explained.

The CDC reported Friday that hospitalization rates continue to be highest in younger populations, with the highest hospitalization rate reported

See H1N1 on page 12A

Red Cross disaster relief trailer on standby



Pictured from left, with the Red Cross disaster relief trailer are Bud Greco, Emergency Services director; Mari Wright, executive director of the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross; Early County Emergency Management director Ray Jarrett; and assistant Felix Davis.

Red Cross needs volunteers

Early County's emergency preparedness received a boost last week with the arrival of a Red Cross emergency relief trailer.

The trailer, delivered by Southwest Georgia Chapter Red Cross officials, is completely equipped with everything needed to set up a 50-bed emergency shelter during disasters which may destroy or cause people to flee their homes.

The disaster relief trailer was made possible through the Wal-Mart Foundation Grant program. "We are excited about the Wal-Mart grant program and what it has meant to our chapter," stated Mari Wright, executive direc-

tor of the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross, not an agency of the government, is mandated by congress to provide disaster relief at no cost.

The Red Cross receives no government funding. All funds come from the generosity of individuals, small businesses and corporations.

"As important as donations are, equally important is the value of volunteers," stated Bud Greco, Emergency Services Director. "Ninety-six percent of all work done by the Red Cross is accomplished by volunteers. The American Red Cross could See RED CROSS on page 3A