

GREEN THUMB

Growing herbs can be a valuable use of time during the pandemic, **LIFESTYLES, 7A**

MINING FORUM

Twin Pines goes over proposal for their Okefenokee project a virtual event, **LOCAL, 3A**

NEW BHS COACH

Former GA, FA coach Greg Robers to take over Pirates' baseball program, **SPORTS, 7A**



TOUCHING TRIBUTE

Arbery mural going up on Albany Street

By **MARY STARR**
The Brunswick News

On Albany Street, in Brunswick, new life is being given to an old building through a grassroots effort of area residents. Passersby will immediately notice the more-than-lifesized portrait of slain Glynn County resident Ahmaud Arbery taking shape on the side of the building. The image will be a part of a mural being painted by Marvin Weeks, a Miami artist and former Brunswick resident. Perched atop a mechanical lift, Weeks is meticulously recreating the image of Arbery from a small photograph he holds in his hand as he manipulates



Nathan Weeks, 11, from top, William Lewis, 8, Amari Lewis, 9, and Jamie Cooper, 7, add their artistic touch to the wall where Miami artist Marvin Weeks, above, is painting a mural of Ahmaud Arbery.

Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News photos

Please see **MURAL, 3A**

Shooting spurs action from state legislators

By **TAYLOR COOPER**
tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com

The recent shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery is renewing interest in some older legislation and spurring new initiatives in the Georgia General Assembly. State Reps. Al Williams, D-Liberty County, and James Beverly, D-Macon, spoke from the Glynn County Courthouse steps Monday calling for the passage of House Bill 426, a hate crimes bill, and renaming it in honor of Arbery.

Please see **BILLS, 3A**

Mayor urges peaceful protests

By **GORDON JACKSON**
gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com

The Ahmaud Arbery shooting happened outside city limits, but it was the main topic discussed during Brunswick Mayor Cornell Harvey's "fireside chat" Wednesday via teleconference. "We don't have much control in what happens," Harvey said. "You

Please see **MAYOR, 10A**

Planning commissions discuss zoning update

By **TAYLOR COOPER**
tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com

An overhaul of Glynn County's zoning rules has been pushed back from December to May of next year. "We've been waiting to see what's going on with the (COVID-19) pandemic, and I

think at this point we're ready to move forward in virtual or other ways," Woody Giles, senior associate with planning and architecture consulting firm TSW, said Tuesday. The consultant has been working for the past several months

Please see **ZONING, 10A**

COVID-19 STATS

Latest numbers as of 7 p.m. Wednesday from the Department of Public Health

GEORGIA	
CASES	DEATHS
35K	1,517
GLYNN COUNTY	
CASES	DEATHS
75	1

GBI reopens 1985 murder investigation

By **GORDON JACKSON**
gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is reopening a 1985 murder investigation in Camden County at the request of Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jackie Johnson. Johnson learned six weeks ago

about new DNA evidence that could free Dennis Perry, 58, the man convicted of the double murder of Harold and Thelma Swain inside the Rising Daughter Baptist Church.

Perry was convicted, even though there was no physical

Please see **MURDER, 10A**

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WEATHER

High 78, Low 67.
Partly cloudy. **10A**

Worth knowing

Seniors who used to attend Oglethorpe Point Elementary School took part in a long-standing tradition Wednesday. **Local, 2A**

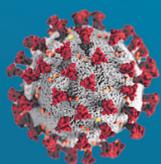
Worth knowing

While the pandemic has caused economic hardships for all, states are looking at where they can make cuts. **Nation, 10A**

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Page One, Part 2

Twin Pines presentation dominates public meeting

By GORDON JACKSON
gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com

A public hearing Wednesday about a proposal to mine heavy minerals near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge didn't give the public much time for questions.

After two hours, the online presentation by Twin Pines Minerals hearing, conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was cut off after complaints about the redundant presentations made by company representatives explaining the scope of the

proposed project.

One person in the chat room listening to the presentation said it appeared Twin Pines officials were "running out the clock." Another listener complained, "We have been stonewalled again."

The teleconference, the first ever conducted by the corps office in Savannah, began with an overview of the responsibilities and authority of the Army Corps of Engineers.

After a presentation about the scope of the proposal, Twin Pines officials explained their plans for what

Chris Stanford, a staff geologist for Twin Pines, said would show mining could be conducted in an environmentally safe manner.

He said the new permit to mine on a 1,041-acre site submitted earlier this year, if approved, would show the company's method of using a drag line and conveyor system instead of the floating dredge system used elsewhere will have minimal environmental impact.

Impatient listeners online asked why Stanford was explaining the company's plans to mine instead of the "sub-

stance of the application."

Stanford also explained the importance of the heavy minerals, titanium dioxide and zirconium in particular, to the nation, which imports most of the metals from China and Australia.

Stanford went on to explain the mining process over a six-year time span.

Chris Terrell, an environmental scientist for Twin Pines, said the proposed mining site has already been impacted by commercial timber operations. The site also is recovering from the 2017 wildfires.

Few threatened or endangered species were found at the site, largely because of the impacts from timber operations.

When company officials explained mitigation plans following mining of an area and the return of soil, one listener expressed concerns about impacts to the nearby Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Robert Holt, a hydrologist, held a lengthy presentation using graphics and technical jargon and explaining the probabilities of hitting clay.

Bills

Continued from page 1A

"Georgia is one of four states without a hate crimes law," noted state Rep. Chuck Efration, R-Dacula, the bill's primary sponsor.

It would, among other things, allow judges to issue harsher sentences for a crime under certain conditions.

"The bill will create enhanced sentencing available to the judge only if the jury has found the defendant guilty of a criminal offense," Efration said.

Once that condition is met, a jury would then consider — as a separate judgment — whether the defendant targeted the victim based on the person's "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability or physical disability," according to the text of the bill.

This judgment would be subject to the same standard of review as the guilty verdict in that the prosecution would have to prove the perpetrator's intention beyond a reasonable doubt.

Georgia's legislature passed a hate crime law in 2000, but in 2004 the state Supreme Court struck it down for being too vague.

Efration said H.B. 426 addresses the problems cited by the court while giving prosecutors and judges the appropriate tools to classify and sentence a hate crime.

It passed by a good margin in the state House March 2019 but stalled in the Senate.

"It's waiting to be called for a hearing," Efration said.

Designated Senate Bill 166, Efration's measure was put on hold like so many others when the COVID-19 outbreak gained ground across the nation. The assembly suspended the current legislative session indefinitely on March 13.

House Speaker Rep. David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, announced this week that the session will resume June 11, leaving little time for the legislature to get caught up on the budgeting process and pass bills into law.

When the session does resume, the bill will need a hearing and passage out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Jesse Stone, R-Waynesboro, before heading to the Senate floor for a final vote. From there it would go to the governor for his signature.

"We had some discussion on this and will be looking at it very closely," said state Sen. William Ligon, R-White Oak. "Right now, there's several versions of a bill that will be considered and we will be looking at them."

Stone is working on his own alternative, Ligon said.

Not all support changes to the House bill, however.

"I think we're going to try to get it out of the Senate just

like it is," said state Rep. Don Hogan, R-St. Simons Island. "I got some criticism for voting for it, but you know."

He said the House bill was "a pretty good one" and hopes to see the same one signed into law.

"(Hate is) devastating," Hogan said. "It's not the way to go with anything. There's no room for hate in anything as far as I'm concerned."

He believes there is support among senators, even before the Feb. 23 shooting death of Arbery, an incident which has touched off new, invigorated calls for passage of a hate crimes bill in Georgia.

While he was not ready Wednesday to get into a conversation about the legislation — which he voted against — state Rep. Jeff Jones, R-St. Simons Island, said he is spearheading another initiative he hopes would prevent future incidents like the Arbery killing without imposing harsher penalties after the fact.

In essence, it would impose strict restrictions on the use of deadly force during a citizen's arrest.

"My view is that with the advent of today's technology — cell phones, phone camera, GPS, etc. — rarely do I think there would ever be a need for a citizen to use deadly force in the context of a citizen's arrest," Jones said.

It would take the form of an amendment to state code section 17-4-60, which reads, in its entirety: "A private per-

son may arrest an offender if the offense is committed in his presence or within his immediate knowledge. If the offense is a felony and the offender is escaping or attempting to escape, a private person may arrest him upon reasonable and probable grounds of suspicion."

"The thing I want to be careful about is to not restrict the right of citizens to defend themselves when they feel their lives are threatened or their property is threatened," Jones said.

The problem is that nothing in the citizen's arrest statute addresses the use of deadly force, whether in self-defense or otherwise.

He hopes his bill, when completed, will do the job.

Jones said he doesn't think what happened to Arbery falls within the bounds of current state law.

"I'm not a lawyer," he said. "My opinion is just that. I'm the absolute 100 percent expert on my opinion."

Given the time restrictions imposed by the short session, Jones said he will try to introduce his measure this session, get a House bill number assigned and push for its passage in the next session of the General Assembly, which will begin early next year.

Arbery was killed following a confrontation in the Satilla Shores neighborhood with Gregory and Travis McMichael, both armed at the time. The event has inspired outrage and protests on the

local, state and national levels.

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UPCOMING APPOINTMENT BY THE GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION

The Glynn County Board of Commissioners and the Brunswick City Commission jointly will be making three appointments to the Golden Isles Development Authority. Applicants must be taxpayers residing in Glynn County, Georgia, and may not be an officer or employee of Glynn County or the City of Brunswick.

Citizens interested in serving as a Golden Isles Development Authority Board member are urged to submit a brief resume and letter to the Golden Isles Development Authority, 1505 Richmond Street, Second Floor, Brunswick, GA 31520, no later than Friday, May 15, 2020. Terms are for 3 years.

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Mural

Continued from page 1A

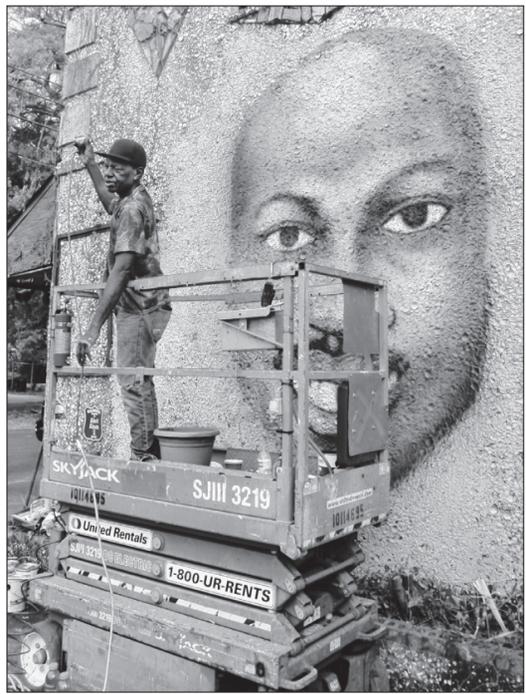
the paint with an air brush against the tabby surface. Weeks, a 1972 graduate of Brunswick High School, has lived in Miami the past three decades but still considers the Golden Isles home.

An artist and curator, his visual and civic work as an artist centers around the cultural diversity of Miami neighborhoods. He is a member of the City of Miami Arts and Entertainment Council and the creative director of Broadway Art District. He is also the recipient of the MTV Music Video Mural Award and the 2004 City of Miami Icon Award.

The building at 1621 Albany St., originally known as the Hart Building, is slated to become the headquarters for the Brunswick African American Culture Center, and fundraising is under way. Aundra Fuller is the director.

"It's had many uses. It's been a nightclub and it was a culture center in the 1970s," she said of the building, built by Nelson Hart in the 1950s. "We started organizing in early 2019."

Fuller feels it's important for the African American history of Brunswick to be preserved, and no one to date has undertaken the project.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Miami artist Marvin Weeks, a Brunswick native, works on a mural of Ahmaud Arbery on the side of a building located at 1621 Albany Street.

Weeks said painting the mural and the portrait of Arbery is the perfect opportunity for him to pursue his interest of architecture, history and culture. The tabby surface, he said, is part of those things.

Like his works in Miami, Weeks said the mural will reflect the culture and history of

the neighborhood. That was evident on Tuesday, when residents, both black and white, were working alongside each other to revitalize the site.

Chantez Ford, owner of Fantastic Functions, spent hours cutting back brush and cleaning out the building. The city mowed the vacant lot adjacent to the Hart

Building, and is now working on reclaiming the sidewalk from the grass and dirt that had grown over its concrete surface.

All present agreed that it's the kind of project that can spark neighborhood revitalization.

A number of groups are involved in raising money and promoting the culture center, including the Genoa Martin Friends of Historic Selden Park, headed by Dana Roberts Beckham, and Women's Voices of Glynn County.

So far, around \$1,500 has been raised. After the mural project is paid for, any leftover money will go toward legal representation for Arbery's family.

Beckham said she and Weeks have remained connected throughout the years. She remembers coming to the Pyramid with her uncles, and enjoying the poetry, skits and music performed there. When she approached him about the mural, she said, "I'll get you everything you need."

True to her word, she began raising money through CashApp and began receiving money from all over the world.

For his part, Weeks is proud to be a part of the project.

"It's about everyone coming together," he said. "Finding solutions rather than pointing fingers."

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Commentary

Page 4A // The Brunswick News // Thursday, May 14, 2020

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EDITORIAL

Teamwork needed to help Isles recover from pandemic

If ever there were a time the community needed the Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, Glynn County Board of Education, Glynn County Commission and Brunswick City Commission to talk to each other and work together, it's now. COVID-19 may be on a slow retreat, depending on who one asks, but it's leaving in its wake a city, a county and an economy in shambles.

Businesses are wondering if they will ever get back on their feet, let alone resurrect their full workforces. Even businesses resuscitated by funds from the federal CARES Act remain on oxygen and are unsure whether the temporary assistance will be enough to overcome the financial devastation wrought by the coronavirus.

It's too early to tell if the deep wounds will heal or mend before the struggle to breathe becomes too much.

Businesses relying on tourism are just as concerned. How do they draw crowds back to the community, and if they can, how will they keep everyone safe? Everyone includes employees, tourists and the

community population in general.

Meanwhile, elected governing bodies are trying to figure out how they will cope with less revenue and how long they should even attempt to do so before raising taxes, the one lever they can pull that will assure them coinage. As stated before, a property tax increase has already been mentioned by the school board. If the city and county begin thinking along that same line, brace yourselves, residents. It could be a long winter.

Create a think tank with representatives from each group. Compare financial woes and determine what costs can be reduced or put on hold for now if not removed entirely from spending lists. Teamwork could lead to a viable plan to restart the economy and get it rolling again.

One can only presume that those who sought government posts and those who accepted lead roles in the chamber of commerce did so out of care and concern for the community. This is their opportunity to prove it.

It's not enough to say time is money. Time is survival and jobs.

COLUMN / STAR PARKER



All of us are on welfare now

I'm pleased to read that Republican leaders in the White House and on Capitol Hill want to take a pause before enacting more coronavirus stimulus spending.

Thinking about the coronavirus debt that my grandchildren will have to endure is already starting to keep me up at night.

But what really had me in cold sweats was when I found myself anxiously waiting for a Paycheck Protection Program loan, or PPP loan, to provide assistance to my struggling company.

I pondered, with deep angst, that after shedding myself of welfare dependency some 35 years ago, suddenly I find myself back in business with government.

Back when I was on means-tested welfare programs, the rules were "Don't work. Don't save. Don't get married;" and my rich uncle in Washington would reach into someone else's pocket and provide me security and stability on his government plantation.

Now politicians are setting up commissions and oversight to allegedly assure compliance with the rules for the trillions of coronavirus stimulus dollars allocated.

I say allegedly because, sadly, it is largely a show with a storyline that we tell ourselves, pretending that politicians can design trillions in spending programs that are targeted and efficient and can be overseen to assure that it's all done right.

The PPP program consists of \$659 billion in loans that will go to millions of businesses around

the country.

Each of these businesses is unique. What does my Washington, D.C., nonprofit have in common with a dry cleaner or a restaurant? What does my organization of 12 employees have in common with a business of 500, the largest that qualifies for PPP loans?

Yet, the rules for using the PPP loan are the same for everyone.

The loans can become grants if 75% of the funds are used for payroll and the business is staffed as it was before the crisis.

But the way we are going to get out of this crisis is creativity, doing things in new and different ways.

Many businesses, including my own, will not and should not be the same. There should be a lot of change and reinventing going on.

Yet the condition for the government money is that you run your business as government tells you how to run it, and that you continue to operate it as you did before — both very bad ideas.

Also consider that the PPP was one part of the \$2 trillion CARES Act package. Another part included a \$600 weekly payment to the unemployed, over and above unemployment insurance.

So while the PPP demands that employers restore their workforce, many in that workforce are now being subsidized by government to stay out of work.

Of course, we are in unique circumstances that require government action. But the issue is not whether government should act but how.

All this could have been done

without vast new expenditures and government micromanagement of our lives.

The point was to get cash to individuals and businesses to get through the crisis without interfering with individual autonomy.

This could have been done through a tax holiday, where individuals were sent back their 2019 taxes. If a business paid \$30,000 in taxes in 2019, refund it.

And/or, as Peter Wallison of the American Enterprise Institute suggested, short-term credit forbearance could have been provided. Deferral of rent payments, mortgage payments, car payments, utilities, etc., could have been permitted, providing for payment later at a special low interest rate.

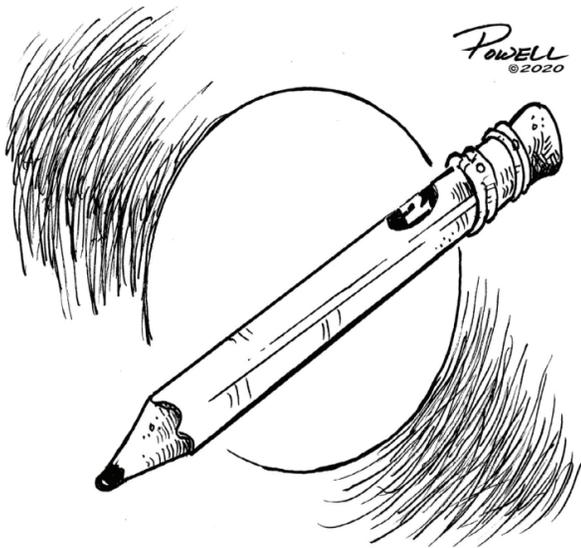
Brian Riedl at the Manhattan Institute estimates that what we've spent so far in this crisis will add another \$8 trillion to our national debt, which was already approaching the size of our entire economy.

We've made a big mistake by dealing with a cash flow crisis by introducing massive new government spending, debt and political intervention into our personal lives.

Let's wait before doing more of the same.

Star Parker is president of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education and author of the new book "Necessary Noise: How Donald Trump Inflames the Culture War and Why This is Good News for America."

ANOTHER VIEW / JIM POWELL



THE NEW 2020 VOTING MACHINE



MY ANSWER / BILLY GRAHAM

God wants to give hope for the future

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Dear Dr. Graham:

It's been shocking to witness the events of the past several weeks. I would have never guessed that a virus could sweep across the world and essentially close it down. Is it possible that God has sent the recent problems to turn our attention from what's important to us, causing us to look to Him?

— A.C.

Dear A.C.: Life is a journey — although sometimes we forget it. Life becomes so hectic, and we become so preoccupied with our immediate concerns that we don't step back and see the whole picture. For many people life is a constant struggle just to survive. Others have everything they could ever want, yet remain unsatisfied and unfulfilled.

Some see their own life's journey as a series of unrelated events — some good, some bad — strung together like beads on a string. Others feel trapped like a leaf in

a rushing stream, tossed about by circumstances beyond control. Many people may never have stopped to think about the road they are traveling.

But God didn't intend for our journey through life to be this way. Instead, He meant for it to be filled with purpose, whether in good times or bad times. He also wants to guide us as we make decisions and to give us hope for the future. Most of all, He desires to make this journey with us.

Sometimes we get tired of the burdens of life brought on by sickness, isolation, or despair in the midst of overwhelming problems. Sometimes life touches one person with a bouquet and another with a thorn bush.

But the first may find a wasp in the flowers and the second may discover roses among the thorns.

If you will believe in the Lord Jesus and follow Him, you will learn that He goes before you every step of the way. "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Reader has lost faith in district attorney

I never thought that I would be a protester. My mom and dad raised me to respect the law and to submit to authority.

Then a young man was murdered.

I initially called for peace and trust. I worked with law enforcement officials during my career in child protection. In my day, we all dedicated our lives to being moral and ethical servants of our community.

Somehow, Jackie Johnson was elected to work with us, as our chief law enforcement officer. Things changed.

A police officer stalked his wife and subsequently killed her. He was shielded by the DA's office.

A former employee, armed and angry, kills a young man. We now know that she instructed that her former employee not be arrested before recusing herself and hand-picking her successor, who likewise refused to make an arrest. We then learn that he was also conflicted and indebted to DA Johnson through his son's employment.

The governor needs to suspend DA Johnson until such time as she can be investigated. We need to be able to have faith that "equal protection under the law" are not hollow words.

DA Johnson, step down. We have no faith in you.

**Mark Newman
Brunswick**

Attorney should apologize for insulting school system

Kevin Gough's comments on national television about Roddie Bryan's vocation and educational background as well as his references to Glynn County's School System's supposed questionable level of educating students were

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

insulting, not only to Roddie, but to all of Glynn's students and educators.

Gough said, and I quote, "If you've ever been to the high schools around here, that's not necessarily saying much." As a former Glynn County educator, I had the privilege to work with highly educated, motivated, passionate, and quality teachers and administrators who worked tirelessly to see that their students succeeded in school to go on to make a difference in the world.

They should be praised, not insulted, and Mr. Gough owes them a huge apology.

**Julie Parsons
Pensacola, Fla.**

Thoughts of letter writer go to Arbery's mother

Sunday was Mother's Day and I was thinking of Ahmaud Arbery's mother. She had this precious young man for 25 years. What an amazing mother she must have been to him to raise such a man as he was. My heart breaks for this family.

The hatred and ignorance that surround these circumstances are horrific. If we learn anything at all from this horrible tragedy, it is that we as a people must begin seeing each other from our hearts instead of our eyes. I pray for this family to begin to heal and that those responsible for this young man's death be held to account.

**Amy Walker
St. Simons Island**

Market failures make govt controls necessary

The problem with allowing markets to drive the much-debated economic recovery is that they are inconsistent and unaccountable.

It's undeniable that market efficiency depends on "internalizing" (accounting for) all costs and

benefits associated with business activities, but this ideal is virtually never realized.

To the contrary, it's precisely because external costs are routinely ignored, or woefully undercompensated, that we suffer the consequences of environmental degradation as well as COVID-19 contagion spread at workplaces.

If business owners, from local shops to international corporations, could be counted on to protect their employees and the public with well-known pandemic precautions — including testing, social distancing, and the consistent use of masks — proposing that "free markets" lead America's economic recovery would be credible.

However, evidence that businesses are safeguarding their workers is dangerously erratic, and thus hardly reassuring. Clearly, the established fact that meat-packing operations have become COVID-19 "hotspots" is conclusive proof of management's failure to "internalize" the public-health costs of their activities.

The harsh reality of the private sector's unreliability in meeting public obligations should come as no surprise. Unregulated business activity is motivated by maximizing profits, which means eliminating costs whenever possible — including the considerable expense of controlling COVID-19.

The Trump Administration's order requiring packing plants to restore operations — without any mandatory health safeguards — indulges recklessly unfettered profit-making at the public's expense. Negligence of public welfare is compounded by Trump's dismantling of environmental protections.

This suggests only one solution to America's economic predicament: Well-enforced, science-based government requirements that ensure vital public safety protections.

**David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters on topics of general interest to readers in Southeast Georgia by: Mail Letters to the Editor,

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Email: editor@thebrunswicknews.com Fax: 912-280-0926

Letters should be no more than 250 words in length and may be edited for clarity. Letter writers will be limited to one letter every four weeks.

You must include your name, address and phone number.

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Local & Nation

Pandemic wrecks many state budgets, could trigger deep cuts

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

As the nation enters a third month of economic devastation, the coronavirus is proving ruinous to state budgets, forcing many governments to consider deep cuts to schools, universities, health care and other basic functions that would have been unthinkable just a few months ago.

Many states expect their revenue to plunge by 15% to 20% because government-ordered lockdowns have wiped out much of the economy and caused tax collections to evaporate. That puts statehouses billions of dollars in the red for the fiscal year that usually begins in July, with no end to the crisis in sight.

Colorado faces a gap of nearly a quarter of the state's general budget. The projected gap in California is more than a fifth of its spending plan and in Oklahoma, a sixth. The governor of Oregon is preparing to cut 17% of her budget. Michigan may have to slash up to a quarter of the money it sends to schools.

"There's no crisis we've had that even comes close to this," said Greg Albrecht, chief economist for the Louisiana Legislature. "This is a (Hurricane) Katrina-sized downgrade in the forecast."

A forecasting panel slashed the state's income projections by \$1 billion because of the virus.

The drumbeat of bad news continued Wednesday as Washington's governor froze most state hiring and called for 15% cuts to many parts of the budget. New Jersey announced that tax revenue for April was down 60% compared with the year before — and that it will look worse next month.

The dire projections are coming out as Congress gets ready to debate whether and how to help.

Before the pandemic, most states had generally healthy budget situations and were working on adding to their reserves, which had been built over the decade since the Great Recession. Now state finances are in peril regardless of the actual number of infections. In nearly every state that has estimates, the projected budget gaps are bigger than the emergency savings.

Governors and lawmakers hope for at least a partial bailout from Congress, which is considering a relief package that could provide money to keep teachers in classrooms, parks open and police on the streets. How much Congress and President Donald Trump agree to send is primed to be

the next big battle in Washington.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said his state needs \$61 billion in federal support "or we will wind up aggravating the situation" by forcing cuts to local governments.

"You know who local governments are? That's the police, firefighters. You want me to cut hospitals? Hospitals are the nurses and the doctors who just got us through this and everyone celebrates as heroes. If you don't fund the state, that's who you're cutting in terms of finances."

One state that stands to survive with minimal cutbacks is South Carolina, where revenue in the \$10 billion budget that starts July 1 is expected to be down by perhaps \$1 billion — but all of that shortfall was in extra money the state expected to collect in taxes and fees before the pandemic. Utah officials said they may be in a similar situation, with enough reserves to weather the pandemic. And Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat, said Wednesday his state is still projecting a surplus a year from now, although smaller than originally planned, and does not anticipate budget cuts. Montana has the second lowest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, behind Alaska.



Seth Wenig/AP

Luis Hidalgo, wearing face mask, watches as Joel Rios installs a plastic barrier in his car to protect himself and his passengers from the new coronavirus in the Bronx borough of New York on May 6.

Face mask rules grow but enforcement proves a challenge

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ and DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft are requiring drivers and passengers to wear masks while using their services, joining a growing list of transportation companies hoping to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as some cities emerge from lockdown.

All major U.S. airlines have already rolled out requirements for passengers and crew to wear face coverings in response to concerns over contagion, particularly in small or confined spaces that present higher risks of infection than well-ventilated or outdoor settings.

But the rules are only effective if people are willing to follow them and if the companies ferrying passengers are serious about enforcement.

Pilots worry that travelers

could remove their masks and spark a confrontation with others during a flight. They are pressing the Federal Aviation Administration to require masks instead of leaving it up to individual airlines.

"I can't imagine the stir on the airplane if someone takes off their mask," said Dennis Tager, a 737 pilot and spokesman for the pilots' union at American Airlines. "It puts the flight crew in a precarious position."

In ride-hailing vehicles, Uber will make drivers upload a mask-wearing selfie into the app before they can pick up a passenger, the company said Wednesday. Riders also will be required to wear a mask, but they won't have to provide proof. Either the rider or driver can cancel a ride if the other doesn't wear a mask, and repeat violators can be kicked off the platform.

Lyft is providing one reusable

cloth mask to each driver and has been distributing hand sanitizer. Uber has distributed disposable masks or cleaning supplies to about 400,000 drivers globally, distributing packs of five or ten masks and encouraging drivers to use one per day, said Sachin Kansal, Uber's head of safety products.

Jerome Gage, who drives for Lyft in Los Angeles, says what Uber and Lyft are currently providing is not nearly enough to keep drivers and passengers safe.

"If we were to just rely on what Uber and Lyft provided to us, our cars would be like a cesspool, potentially, for this disease," Gage said.

On airplanes, enforcement appears to be spotty at best. American Airlines has told pilots that gate agents may deny passengers from boarding if they aren't wearing a mask but it doesn't expect crews to continue policing once they're in the air.

Zoning

Continued from page 1A

to clean up and clarify the zoning ordinance, make appropriate changes and translate the county's latest comprehensive plan into zoning rules. He also has been handling public input and feedback.

The Islands and Mainland planning commissions met with consultants Tuesday to go over options for changing various development rules and deciding which ones to present to the public.

Regardless of which options the county goes with, the new rules will apply only to new developments once the new ordinance is passed.

"It would be very unlikely that the county would ever adopt ordinances that retroactively apply or conflict with HOA requirements," said Caleb Racicot, also with TSW.

Giles said the public will be invited to an open house to vote on each issue once the planning commissioners review them.

They started with possible changes to the point from which building height is measured. Currently, build-

ing height is limited to 35 feet and measures from either flood level or ground level, whichever is higher.

One proposed change would be to measure from ground level in all cases, ground-level before grading or from the mid-point of sloped roofs, among other potential options.

Commissioners also discussed how high one must build above the base flood elevation. Options included no changes — one foot above flood elevation — increasing it from one foot to two or to three feet.

In both cases, most planning commissioners feared unintended consequences of too harshly restricting building height and recommended leaving it the same.

"We probably started this session with the two toughest issues," said IPC member Patrick Duncan.

Ultimately both sets of options will be posed to the public.

When discussing options for imposing landscaping and architectural design standards outside of St. Simons Island, MPC member Missy Neu reminded the board what such requirements would do.

"This will add cost to the cost of housing and remodeling and updating and all of those things to homes," Neu said.

When the public is asked to weigh in, the county should make sure it is aware of the costs and remember that the area doesn't have enough affordable housing, she said.

Planning manager Stefanie Leif said design standards could be useful in some areas on the mainland, like the main gateways into the county.

Ultimately, they decided to completely remove the option to impose countywide design standards.

Other issues on the list include open space requirements, protections for historic buildings, changing buffer regulations, fence and wall restrictions, signage regulations and creating a new "neighborhood retail" zoning category.

Rather than going through each option Tuesday, the commissioners decided to work on them individually and submit their recommendations in writing by the end of the month.

A date for the public open house has not been scheduled.

Mayor

Continued from page 1A

have to demand justice."

The city played no role in the investigation of the Feb. 23 shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, but the city has been impacted by the large rallies with people demanding justice and asking why it took 10 weeks for the arrests of the two suspects captured on video.

Greg McMichael, 64, and his son, Travis McMichael, 34, were arrested May 7 and charged with felony murder and aggravated assault in the death of Arbery. Both remain in the Glynn County Detention Center.

Harvey said there were efforts behind the scenes to put pressure on investigators.

As for the rallies, Harvey said he expects more of them

and only asks participants to continue to be thoughtful and peaceful. The one thing he doesn't want is protesters seeking vigilante justice.

"People are going to come," he said. "We welcome people here. Some bad people don't depict what Brunswick is all about. The whole community wants justice."

He thanked Southeast Georgia Health System employees for providing hand sanitizer and masks at the Friday rally. He expressed hope people will continue to follow health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Harvey said he understands the national spotlight is on Brunswick and will continue until justice is served.

"We stand with everyone else demanding justice," he said. "We want justice for Ahmaud."

New city manager Regina McDuffie participated in the teleconference and expressed concerns about public health for residents and those coming from out of town to the rallies.

"We want to do it in a peaceful, safe manner," she said.

McDuffie said the organizers of any rally should contact her office in advance.

Harvey opened the meeting with an update on ongoing health guidelines and predicted more COVID-19 cases will be confirmed in the city with more testing.

He said the Reynolds Street entrance to City Hall is the only one open. Hand sanitizer and masks are at the entrance and six-foot social distancing marks on the floor were made to keep the public safe. The public is still encouraged to conduct business online, if possible.

Murder

Continued from page 1A

evidence linking him to the crime. He lived in Jonesboro at the time and lawyers said it would be impossible for Perry to drive from metropolitan Atlanta after clocking out of work at 5 p.m.

to Camden County in time to commit the murders at 8:45 p.m.

Jurors in the high-profile trial never learned the key witness was paid \$12,000 for her role in the conviction.

The new evidence, hairs found in a pair of glasses at the scene of the crime believed to have been worn

by the assailant, have been linked to another suspect in the case.

The DNA of the hair matched the DNA of a hair sample given voluntarily by the mother of the new suspect.

The GBI investigation will determine how Johnson responds to a motion by Perry's lawyers for a new trial.

Isles Weather

5-day forecast

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
M. Cloudy H: 79° L: 69°	P. Cloudy H: 81° L: 68°
SUNDAY	MONDAY
M. Sunny H: 84° L: 71°	P. Cloudy H: 89° L: 70°

almanac

Temperature

Yesterday's High 78°
 Yesterday's Low 66°
 Normal High 82°
 Normal Low 66°
 Record High 94° in 1967
 Record Low 50° in 1960

Precipitation

Yesterday 0.00"
 Month-to-date 0.00"
 Normal month-to-date 0.67"
 Year-to-date 13.53"
 Normal year-to-date 13.73"
 Record high for month 12.55" in 1966
 Record low for month 0.52" in 1962

	Flood Stage	Yesterday's Stage	24-hr Change
Altamaha River			
Charlotte	13.0	9.17	-1.28
Baxley	74.5	72.76	-1.25
Doctortown	12.0	11.09	-0.26
Satilla River			
Waycross	16.0	6.77	-0.39
Atkinson	13.0	9.01	-0.72

For latest weather updates, please visit:
www.UpdatedWx.com/BN

tides

Brunswick's East River

Today	Low	High	Low
3:02 am	9:22 am	3:37 pm	9:39 pm
Friday			
High	Low	High	Low
3:59 am	10:16 am	4:36 pm	10:36 pm
Saturday			
High	Low	High	Low
4:55 am	11:06 am	5:32 pm	11:29 pm
Sunday			
High	Low	High	Low
5:50 am	11:52 am	6:23 pm	None
Monday			
Low	High	Low	High
12:19 am	6:38 am	12:37 pm	7:07 pm

For these locations, add or subtract these minutes to the times above

St. Simons Pier	-34 min.
Jekyll Pier	-34 min.
Bwk Landing Marina	0 min.
Hidden Harbor Yacht Club	-4 min.
Golden Isles Marina	-9 min.
Mac's Bait Shop	+21 min.
St. Simon's Marina	-9 min.
Hampton River, Jones Creek	-34 min.
Two Way Fish Camp	+1 hr. 1 min.
Altamaha Park	+3 hrs. 1 min.
Cloister Dock	-19 min.
Turtle River (Crispen Island)	+11 min.
Christmas Creek	-34 min.
Hickory Bluff Marina	+31 min.
Dover Bluff	+11 min.
Downtown Darien	+16 min.

skywatch

Rises	Today	Tomorrow
Sets	6:30 a.m.	6:29 a.m.
Sets	8:13 p.m.	8:14 p.m.

moon

Rises	2:19 a.m.	2:54 a.m.
Sets	1:09 p.m.	2:05 p.m.

moon phases

Last 5/14	New 5/22	First 5/29	Full 6/5

marine forecast

Today: Water temperature, 71. E wind 10 to 13 kt. Mostly sunny. Seas 1 to 2 ft.